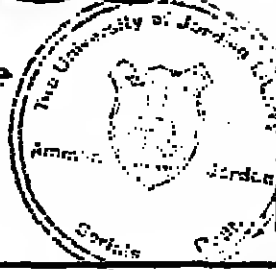


Masri, Bush discuss Mideast

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Wednesday met with U.S. Vice-President George Bush in Washington and discussed the present Middle East situation in the wake of the latest diplomatic moves, and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian accord. Earlier in the day, Mr. Masri met with journalists and writers specialised in Middle East affairs. He also held meetings with Arab and foreign diplomats, during which he explained the Jordanian stand in the light of the joint Jordanian-PLO accord and clarified that this stand is a continuation of Jordanian policies towards achieving a "just peace" on the basis of "exchange of land for peace" as is outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. Mr. Masri added that Jordan welcomed the positive points in President Reagan's 1982 peace plan, but rejected Israel's continuing occupation of West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
 جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والراي



Egypt premier arrives in Bucharest

VIENNA (R) — Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali arrived in Bucharest Wednesday at the head of an economic delegation for talks with Romanian leaders, the official Agerpres news agency reported. Mr. Ali, who is accompanied by the ministers of industry, oil and mining and housing, will meet Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dăscălescu and other leading officials. He is also expected to discuss the situation in the Middle East with President Nicolae Ceaușescu. Mr. Ceaușescu has in the past acted as a mediator in the Middle East conflict. "We are counting on Romania to play an outstanding role in the search for peace by encouraging Israel to promote chances for a peaceful settlement," Mr. Ali told the Egyptian weekly Mayo before departure.

Lawzi meets Soviet delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi Wednesday received Vladimir Suleimanov, a member of the Supreme Soviet Præsidium (parliament) and a delegation accompanying him. During the meeting means of promoting cooperation and friendly ties between Jordan and the Soviet Union were discussed. Earlier in the day Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Ismail Hijazi met with Mr. Suleimanov and the accompanying delegation.

2 injured in Tel Aviv bomb

TEL AVIV (AP) — A small bomb exploded near an intercity bus stop outside Tel Aviv Wednesday, wounding two Israelis, a police spokeswoman said. The charge was hidden in the roadside brush about 10 metres from the bus stop near the suburban town of Petah Tikvah, armed forces radio reported. The spokeswoman said two men waiting for a bus were scratched by shrapnel. Police discovered and dismantled another bomb in Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

Kuwaiti students stage demonstration in support of Lebanon

KUWAIT (R) — Some 2,000 students staged a sit-in at Kuwait University Wednesday to demonstrate solidarity with Lebanese national resistance attempts to oust Israel from southern Lebanon. Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun told the students the strife in Lebanon was fomented by the United States and Israel, with the aim of destroying the Palestinian presence there and partitioning the country. "The Arab Muslim people of Lebanon foiled America's bid for a presence in Lebanon, forcing it to quickly withdraw. This is a success the entire Arab armies could not have achieved," he said.

British official in Israel for peace talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Sir Anthony Acland, British permanent under-secretary of state at the Foreign Office, arrived in Israel Tuesday and said his country wanted to promote Middle East peace. Mr. Acland told Israeli reporters he would discuss bilateral relations and the Middle East situation during meetings with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. He said Britain was "willing to help keep the momentum going" on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's peace proposal for direct talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Cabinet decides to accept deferred customs payments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Wednesday decided that customs due on goods stored at customs warehouses at Mahatta and Queishah could be paid by monthly instalments. The decision includes goods in storage before Jan. 1, 1985, and dues should be paid before April 30, 1985.

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Peace efforts fail to stop Sidon violence

Falangist militia rejects truce plan, bring in reinforcements to fight army

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Heavy fighting between the Lebanese army and Falangist militiamen resumed on the outskirts of the southern port of Sidon Wednesday after efforts to end three days of clashes failed.

Security sources said the mostly Christian Falangist Party's "Lebanese Forces" militia, which has taken over Sidon's eastern suburbs, had rejected a peace plan, brought in reinforcements and thrown up street barricades. Reporters heard a fierce battle with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine-guns erupt just after a 2.00 p.m. (1200 GMT) deadline for acceptance of the ceasefire plan expired. In Beirut, where the cabinet met to discuss the crisis and the sweeping Falangist militia revolt against Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, military sources said the army was sending reinforcements to help troops fighting in Sidon. Prime Minister Rashid Karami

told reporters the government was going ahead with political reforms and reconciliation, despite the Falangist revolt. Sidon area units of the Falangist militia have declared for the rebels. Dr. Geagea mounted his revolt last week against Mr. Gemayel's Syrian-backed policies of factional reconciliation, fearful of extensive political concessions to the Muslims.

Rebel spokesman Karim Pakradoun told a press conference Dr. Geagea had been appointed chief of staff and head of the new executive committee for a six-month transition period. This confirmed Dr. Geagea as

effective leader of the militia. Mr. Gemayel's nephew, Dr. Fuad Abu Nader, kept the formal post of commander, but appeared to have become a figurehead.

Sources close to Dr. Abu Nader, who became commander in October in a takeover of the militia by Gemayel loyalists, said he only accepted the new situation because he wants to avoid bloodshed.

"Fuad does not agree with what is happening. The rebels have no plans. It seems more and more that this is a coup d'etat within the Lebanese Forces," one source added.

Mr. Karami said the army had been ordered to take every step to end the Sidon fighting. The government would use "patience and perseverance," he added.

Sidon's parliamentary leader Nazih Bizri, who has worked with leaders of all sects to maintain

(Continued on page 5)

Iraqis attack Kharg Island; mediators intensify moves

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi jets were reported to have hit Iran's main Kharg Island oil terminal and three Iranian cities Wednesday amid signs that moves to stop the latest upsurge in Gulf war fighting were gaining momentum.

In Iran, Tehran airport was almost at a standstill after some major airlines suspended flights following Iraq's imposition of a war zone over Iranian air space (See page 2).

Tension in the area was further increased Tuesday when Iran said air insecurity could spread elsewhere in the Gulf.

In New Delhi, an envoy of Iranian President Ali Khamenei said Iran would observe a ceasefire on civilian targets in the 53-month-old war if Iraq stopped attacks on Iranian cities.

Two Iranian envoys were expected in Baghdad Wednesday before going to Tehran as part of the 101-member Non-Aligned Movement's efforts to stop the war.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah will fly to Algeria next Saturday to seek support for efforts to try end the war, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Wednesday.

Sheikh Sabah went to Baghdad Tuesday for talks on ending the 4½-year conflict, following a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers meeting which focused on the latest upsurge in the fighting. He said he was also ready

to visit Tehran.

Shipping sources in the Gulf said installations at Kharg Island, in the northeast of the waterway, were attacked by Iraqi planes Wednesday and six people were killed aboard an Iranian supply ship apparently hit by a missile.

Wednesday's Iraqi attack on Kharg followed what diplomats in Baghdad described as a huge explosion Tuesday at Kharg, in the northern Gulf, in which they said 12 people were killed and at least one oil storage tank was destroyed.

The diplomats, who said their foreign ministries were in direct contact with workers at Kharg, said the blast occurred Tuesday afternoon hours after Iraq launched an air raid on the Gulf port of Bushehr, 75 kilometres southeast of Kharg.

Gulf shipping sources said installations at Kharg came under Iraqi air attack Wednesday morning and the attack caused a fire on Iranian supply ship, which they named as the Bargir, but they said had no further details other than that six people were killed.

An Iraqi military spokesman said a series of attacks on "selected targets" in the Iranian cities of Isfahan, Karmanah and Bushehr were carried out Wednesday by Iraqi warplanes.

Another Iraqi war communiqué said Iranian gun positions continued to shell Basra, Iraq's second city 500 kilometres south of Baghdad, for the sixth straight day.

"hitting residential areas and causing material damage." Another communiqué said that an unspecified number of Iraqi civilians residents were killed or wounded in the Basra shelling.

In Washington, the New York Times on Wednesday quoted senior U.S. administration officials as saying Iran has apparently suffered a crushing defeat in the week-long ground offensive north of Basra.

The report said officials estimated Iran sent 30,000 to 50,000 soldiers and badly trained volunteers across the border and that most of them were killed.

Iraqi military commanders said their troops had driven the Iranian invasion force from the southern border marshes except for the area around oil-rich Majnoon Island, and took journalists on a tour of the area. Iran occupied Majnoon in a similar invasion in February 1984.

In the latest Gulf war fighting, both Iran and Iraq have brushed aside a U.N.-sponsored agreement of June last year not to attack civilian targets.

In New Delhi, Iranian envoy Ali Mohammad Besharati told reporters Tehran was willing to observe the June pact if Iraq stopped its attacks on Iranian cities.

India has been actively involved in previous non-aligned peace efforts. But, like other international bodies, it has not achieved any concrete success to date.

United States is 'fully determined' to achieve reduction and even elimination of offensive strategic armaments," TASS said.

Mr. Reagan's speech to the Senate was described as "filled with demagoguery and militarist ambitions."

A commentary by Edgar Chepur, political analyst for Novosti, the Soviet news agency which presents Moscow's views to the Western press, said the only logic in the decision was that MX was designed to carry out a first strike.

He said it was to be the sword behind the shield of a space-based anti-missile system, President Reagan's strategic defence initiative (SDI), which Moscow says is a destabilising element in arms talks.

TASS military affairs writer Vladimir Chernyshev said the United States was always responsible for giving fresh impetus to the arms race by developing new weapons to close a non-existent "gap" behind the Soviet Union.



KING BRIEFS CABINET: His Majesty King Hussein chaired a cabinet meeting Wednesday during which he briefed the cabinet on Jordan's move at the Arab and international arenas for peace in the Middle East and made a review of the current situation in the region. The King gave his

directives with regard to all the subjects discussed. Earlier Wednesday the King met with Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, who had been ill for two days early this week. Accompanying the King were Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

Fateh Central Committee endorses Feb. 11 accord

By Lamis K. Andoni
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Central Committee of Fateh has approved an endorsement by the PLO Executive Committee of the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO on joint action towards settling the Palestinian problem, and ratified an "explanatory memorandum" drawn up by the Executive Committee on the accord.

The Central Committee's approval, which came a month after the PLO Executive Committee endorsement, was contained in a communiqué issued in Tunis and received by the PLO office here late Tuesday.

The communiqué stated seven principles which "reflect the Central Committee members' common understanding of the basis of dealing with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian plan as outlined in the Jordan-PLO agreement" and rejected any "unilateral settlement" to the Palestinian problem and "any negotiations outside the framework of an international conference" on the Middle East with the full participation of the Soviet Union, the United States and "all parties concerned."

The communiqué reiterated the Central Committee's commitment to "the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." The communiqué said the proposed state will have con-

federal ties with Jordan, in accordance with Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions.

The "explanatory memorandum" drawn up by the PLO Executive Committee on the Feb. 11 agreement dealt with clarifications sought by the organisation on the accord. His Majesty King Hussein said earlier this week that Jordan and the PLO agreed on two clarifications shortly after the accord was signed. The clarifications involve the make-up of any joint delegation formed to pursue talks.

A week after the signing of the Feb. 11 accord, the PLO Executive Committee, which includes independent members along with representatives of Fateh, the Arab Liberation Front and the Palestine Liberation Front, declared that the committee supported the agreement provided it gets total Arab support.

The PLO Executive Committee communiqué also reiterated rejection of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 on its own and reaffirmed commitment to a joint Arab delegation which would participate in the suggested international peace conference.

The position of the Fateh Central Committee had remained ambiguous until Tuesday's communiqué, particularly that key Fateh leaders had issued controversial statements over the actual interpretation of the accord.

Initial reports from Tunis had indicated the existence of differences within Fateh Central Committee over the joint plan but

on Wednesday well-informed Palestinian sources told the Jordan Times that the communiqué was endorsed unanimously by the Central Committee.

The sources explained that "the shift in the mood" within the Central Committee was basically a result of "the success of recent Jordanian-Palestinian contacts" pertaining to "the clarifications of the agreement."

(Continued on page 5)

Kohl urges joint stand on 'Star Wars'

ESSEN, West Germany (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Wednesday called for a joint European approach to President Reagan's "Star Wars" space defence plan but predicted that the programme could become superfluous. In a speech to a congress of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in Essen, Dr. Kohl acknowledged that U.S. research into space weapons would go ahead but said the vital question was whether the systems would ever be deployed. "We will continue to advocate that the Europeans develop a joint approach on this and then impress it upon our American allies," he said. He added that if U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva lead to a major cutback in nuclear weapons, the deployment of space-based systems could become increasingly superfluous.

The Haaretz newspaper said Mr. Peres had told Washington he consented to such a meeting and was awaiting Jordan's response.

Jordan insists the PLO must be included in any negotiations. AP adds: Mr. Peres said on Wednesday that he did not believe his coalition government would fall apart through differences of opinion over peace negotiations with Jordan.

Mr. Peres, interviewed on Israel Television about the possibility of his six-month-old government breaking up, said peace talks with Jordan were potentially divisive enough within the government to break up the coalition. "If you ask me, only a very controversial subject (could do this). Let's say we have to decide on a peace plan with Jordan, and differences of opinion are revealed such that could bring about the breakup of the government."

The issue of peace negotiations with Jordan and the future of the West Bank is seen as the most likely stumbling-block for the government, whose two main coalition partners are Peres' moderate Labour Party and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's nationalist Likud bloc.

The Likud insists that Israel retain full sovereignty over the whole of the West Bank, with its Palestinian population gaining local autonomy under the terms of the 1978 Camp David agreement.

Several Likud leaders, including Deputy Premier David Levy, have warned that the coalition would collapse if there were a danger to the unity of the "Land of Israel," the broad Hebrew term for Israel including the West Bank.

U.S. votes to restrict aid to Jordan

WASHINGTON (R) — A congressional panel Wednesday approved an increase of \$525 million in U.S. aid for Egypt and Israel but restricted the use of American aid to Jordan unless it agrees to direct negotiations with Israel.

The House of Representatives subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East voted to recommend \$3 billion in U.S. military and economic aid for Israel in the year beginning on Oct. 1, an increase of \$400 million over the current year, and \$2.33 billion for Egypt, a rise of \$125 million.

The bill approved by the subcommittee urges Egypt to support all provisions of the Camp David accords including the return of an Egyptian ambassador to Israel.

It also provides \$122 million in aid to Jordan next year, a \$10 million increase, but says no money can be used for advanced U.S. weapons unless Jordan agrees to direct negotiations with Israel.

The provision on Jordan was added by voice vote as an amendment, which the State Department opposes.

Supporters of the amendment praised King Hussein for making progress toward peace in the Middle East, but noted Jordan and Israel are still in a state of war. They said similar language was approved by Congress last year without hurting relations with Jordan.

Aqaba-Alexandria pipeline under study

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt is studying the possibility of building a pipeline to carry Iraqi oil from Aqaba to Alexandria, the semi-official Cairo daily Al-Ahram said Wednesday.

The newspaper said that Egyptian Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandil had asked his aides for a feasibility study of the proposed project at Jordan's request.

The 450-kilometre pipeline would extend from Aqaba to southern Sinai and link up with the Suez-Mediterranean pipeline at Egypt's Red Sea port of Ain Sokhna. Al-Ahram said.

Tankers unload Gulf Arab oil at Ain Sokhna where it is pumped to Egypt's Mediterranean port of Alexandria.

Iraq and Jordan have agreed to build a 900-kilometre pipeline from Haditha in Iraq to Aqaba

with a daily throughput of one million barrels at a cost of about \$1 billion.

The plan for the Iraq-Jordan pipeline, which was stalled for some time due to Iraqi and Jordanian conditions that the contractors would be paid out of revenues collected from sales of oil transported through the line, is being revived, reports indicate.

The conditions were aimed at securing guarantees that the pipeline would not be attacked by Israel. The U.S. firm Bechtel is believed to be at the head of an American consortium which had been awarded the contract.

"As long as oil flows through the pipeline we'll continue to pay the contractors," Iraqi Oil Minister Ahmad Taqi said last year. "The moment the oil flow stops, so do the payments."

4-nation talks under way in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — High-ranking officials from Syria, Libya, Algeria and South Yemen met here Wednesday amid reports the four nations were planning to revive efforts to block any Arab peace settlement with Israel.

No agenda was announced, but Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi had been quoted Tuesday as saying that a "strategic Arab unity" conference was in the offing.

There also have been published reports in recent days that the four nations — which are the main allies of the Soviet Union in the Middle East — were considering revitalising the so-called "Steadfastness and Confrontation Front" established in 1979 to

counter Egypt's U.S.-brokered Camp David agreement with Israel.

The session in the Assad national library in downtown Damascus included several representatives from each country. There had been a preliminary meeting at the Sheraton hotel.

The Syrian delegation included Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara and two high-ranking Baas Party officials.

Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, the number two man in the Libyan government and South Yemen Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dalil represented their nations at the meeting, while the Algerian delegation was led by Mohammad

Israelis clash over acceptance of U.S. talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel would accept a meeting between Americans, Egyptians and Jordanians in Washington as a prelude to direct talks with Israel, a spokesman for Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday night.

"The idea of a preliminary meeting is not our first choice," said spokesman Baruch Askerov. "We prefer direct negotiations but we can accept the principle of it if it is linked to a meeting with Israel."

Sources in the prime minister's office said this was a softening of Israel's original position opposing any talks on Middle East peace that did not include Israel.

But Mr. Peres' chief spokesman, Avi Savor, said Israel still opposed any meeting between a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and American officials prior to negotiations with Israel, as proposed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"Israel continues to support direct negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which does not include the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)," Mr. Savor said in an official statement.

The U.S. State Department said on Monday it was looking into the possibility of talking with a Jordanian-Palestinian team without the PLO if it would lead to direct talks with Israel.

Israel and the United States reject contact with the PLO until it renounces violence and recognises Israel's right to exist.

Mr. Peres' aides said such objections still held, but said the prime minister did not want to turn down the idea of a preliminary session if it could bring progress.

The Haaretz newspaper said Mr. Peres had told Washington he consented to such a meeting and was awaiting Jordan's response.

Jordan insists the PLO must be included in any negotiations. AP adds: Mr. Peres said on Wednesday that he did not believe his coalition government would fall apart through differences of opinion over peace negotiations with Jordan.

Mr. Peres, interviewed on Israel Television about the possibility of his six-month-old government breaking up, said peace talks with Jordan were potentially divisive enough within the government to break up the coalition. "If you ask me, only a very controversial subject (could do this). Let's say we have to decide on a peace plan with Jordan, and differences of opinion are revealed such that could bring about the breakup of the government."

The issue of peace negotiations with Jordan and the future of the West Bank is seen as the most likely stumbling-block for the government, whose two main coalition partners are Peres' moderate Labour Party and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's nationalist Likud bloc.

The Likud insists that Israel retain full sovereignty over the whole of the West Bank, with its Palestinian population gaining local autonomy under the terms of the 1978 Camp David agreement.

Several Likud leaders, including Deputy Premier David Levy, have warned that the coalition would collapse if there were a danger to the unity of the "Land of Israel," the broad Hebrew term for Israel including the West Bank.

Iran lost over 30,000 men in crushing defeat by Iraq, report says

NEW YORK (AP) — Iraq apparently has dealt Iran a crushing defeat, according to senior Reagan administration officials quoted by the New York Times Wednesday.

The unidentified officials said, 30,000 to 50,000 Iranian soldiers and poorly trained "volunteers" entered southern Iraq, which killed, wounded or captured most of them, the Times reported.

"I don't think the Iranians know how many people they have lost," one senior official reportedly said, "but it is in the tens of thousands," the New York Times said.

Iraq was well prepared for the attack, which began on March 11, and Iraq's counterattack in the last three days crushed the Iranians, the officials said. "The Iranian offensive turned into a suicide attack because the Iraqis could not match the Iraqi air or artillery and they were cut down by the thousands," one official was reported as saying.

"was a classic example" of a well-trained and well-supplied army prevailing over thousands of infantry troops lacking artillery and air support, the Times said.

The officials said Iran fired a few Soviet-made, 1950s-vintage surface-to-surface missiles against Baghdad. The officials said they believed at least two exploded in the city. One official reportedly said Libya is believed to have sold the missiles to Iran.

Meanwhile United Arab Emirates Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Wednesday criticised the superpowers which "merely stand by and observe the recent escalation in the Gulf war, despite the danger this posed to international stability."

Sheikh Hamdan expressed the

UAE's "regret and anxiety" over what he described as "the dangerous escalation of the war." He was quoted by the English-language newspaper Emirates News as directing calls for the two warring parties to cease their fighting and seek a peaceful solution to their differences.

Speaking after the conclusion Tuesday of the Riyadh meeting of the foreign ministers conference of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Sheikh Hamdan said that the war was "posing a danger not only to the region's security, but to international peace and security as a whole."

He urged the superpowers to shoulder their responsibility and to exert all possible efforts to bring the conflict to an end.

The GCC foreign ministers announced at the conclusion of their three-day meeting in Riyadh Tuesday that they were prepared to send a mediating team to both Baghdad and Tehran in a renewed bid to help end the war between Iran and Iraq.



AMBASSADOR HONOURED: Foreign Minister General Saleh Zu'bi (right) presents a token gift to the outgoing Belgian Ambassador Andre Turine at a luncheon banquet hosted in honour of the ambassador (Petra photo)

Poll finds northern Israelis want to move south

TEL AVIV (R) — A poll of Israelis living in northern towns along the Lebanese border found 8.5 per cent have concrete plans to move away, out of range of possible commando attacks.

Many residents fear an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in a few months could lead to increased attacks on northern towns, which came under rocket fire before Israel's 1982 invasion drove Palestinian commandos from the border.

Israeli researcher Mena Tzema, who conducted the poll of 433 border town residents for Israel Television, said the percentage is about the same as those who left the area in 1981 when attacks were at a height.

She said 44 per cent of those interviewed said they would prefer to live somewhere else, about the same as the national average of 42 per cent in other small towns.

Some 15 per cent in the northern towns of Kfar Yitzhak and Metulla said they wanted to leave solely for security reasons. Another 13 per cent said fear of attacks was part of the reason they wanted to move south. The rest of those who wanted to leave cited social or economic reasons.

Israeli occupation felt rather than seen in Tyre

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — At midday, when the sun is still bright overhead, this ancient port city becomes a ghost town.

The few merchants who still go to work crank down their shutters and hurry home through deserted streets. The sandwich shops and coffee houses close. An old woman hawking vegetables in the once-bustling marketplace packs her unsold produce in straw baskets and leaves.

There is no visible reason for this sudden cessation of activity that once again has made Tyre a city of withered dreams. But the people who live in this predominantly Shiite Muslim city of 50,000, the largest in the Israeli occupation zone, invariably offer the same explanation: "The Israelis."

Israeli soldiers seldom enter the city built on a causeway that juts into the Mediterranean to connect the mainland with what in Biblical days was a group of tiny islands. In Tyre, the nearly three-year-old Israeli occupation is felt rather than seen.

As the Israeli army retreats from the country it invaded on June 6, 1982, its soldiers are targets of resistance attacks that totalled at least 120 in the first three weeks of March compared with a monthly average of about 50 in 1984. In the past two weeks, 17 Israeli soldiers have been killed, 12 of them by a suicide truck bomber.

Westerners flee amid fearful mood in Tehran

VIENNA (AP) — Westerners fleeing Tehran aboard special evacuation flights Tuesday described daily air raid alarms in the Iranian capital, and said the wartime mood there is a mixture of fear and curiosity.

"I have gone through the sixth air raid in a week. That is enough," said Austrian Airlines Station Manager Adolf Oberleuthner, after arriving at Schwechat Airport. "I spent the nights in a cellar with friends."

Mr. Oberleuthner was among hundreds of foreigners, worried by Iraq's threat to attack any aircraft in Iranian airspace, who left Tehran on Tuesday aboard special West German, Austrian and Turkish flights.

According to the airlines, more than 800 foreigners were flown out of the Iranian capital, which has been struck repeatedly by Iraqi bombs and missiles. Iraq declared Iranian airspace to be a war zone starting at 1700 GMT Tuesday.

Two Austrian Airlines planes carrying a total of 259 people landed an hour apart at the airport, flying out families of Western diplomats, engineers, businessmen and Austrian nationals working for the airline in Tehran.

Austrian Airlines Capt. Wilhelm Menke, 45, who piloted the first DC-9 from Tehran to a stopover in Istanbul, said takeoff was delayed by at least half an hour when anti-aircraft fire started.

Christopher Brandner, the airline's finance manager in Tehran, said "I have a feeling it may now start for real," predicting that Iraq may step up bomb attacks on civilian targets in and around Tehran.

"So far they (the Iraqis) have not hit the airport," he said, "but there are rumours that the Iraqis will start intensified bombing as of today."

He and other returnees reported that apart from air raid alarms once or twice a day life was going on as usual in Tehran. "There are one or two bomb alerts overnight, but people seem not to care. Life is going on," said the wife of British diplomat, who left her husband behind but brought her baby. She declined to give her name.

"The chance you get hit by random bombing is slight, but there is always some fear," added another diplomat's wife.

An Iranian Red Cross worker, who quit her job to join her sisters

in Vienna said "five years ago, it was great, it was paradise. Now it's hell down there."

She said that while there was fear of bombs, "it's kind of funny. At midnight, when you hear shots from anti-aircraft crews, people run up to their roofs to see what's going on." Most people had no shelters, she said.

"Yesterday I saw people watching anti-aircraft fire, which you can see at night, from their terraces," said the woman. She declined to be identified because of her children left behind in Tehran.

Turkish Airlines evacuated some 200 Turkish nationals and other foreigners on two flights, according to an airline spokesman in Ankara. A jumbo jet of West Germany's Lufthansa carrier brought 357 people to Frankfurt.

The Lufthansa Boeing 747 landed in Frankfurt Tuesday afternoon. The evacuees were welcomed by West German Transport Minister Werner Dollinger. Lufthansa spokesman could not say immediately how many of 357 evacuees were West German and how many were other foreign nationals. Among them was a Japanese couple with three small children. No Americans were aboard, however, Lufthansa said.

More than 100 South Korean workers engaged in Iraqi construction projects have been evacuated to safer areas in the country following a recent escalation of the Gulf war. Foreign Ministry officials in Seoul said Wednesday.

Similar measures will be taken for the rest of about 13,000 South Koreans in Iraq if the war further intensified, they said, adding all the South Koreans in the country and warning Iraq had so far been reported safe.

There are about 2,300 South Korean construction workers in Iraq.

South Korea obtained \$6.5 billion of overseas construction contracts last year, mainly from Middle East countries, down from \$10.4 billion in 1983, according to official figures here.

Meanwhile a Swissair spokesman said Wednesday that the airline has cancelled flights to Iran and Iraq this week due to stepped up fighting in the Gulf war.

Decisions on next week's flights would be taken on a day-to-day basis, he added. Swissair flies two DC-10 planes to Tehran and a DC-9 to Baghdad every week.

Airlines take Gulf war threat seriously

By John Owen-Davies

Reuters

BAHRAIN — Civilian airlines serving Gulf routes are taking seriously threats by Iran and Iraq to create air space insecurity, and some of them have suspended flights to Tehran and Baghdad.

Aviation sources in the area said Wednesday the threats must be taken seriously, but that there was no great alarm. "We must just sit tight and see what happens. At present, we do not see widespread disruptions," one source said.

An Iraqi decision declaring Iranian air space a war zone came into effect Tuesday. Hours later, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi said Baghdad airport could be attacked and that air space insecurity could extend elsewhere in the region.

Iraq's decision was made official on Monday when it issued a notice to airmen. Such notices are recognised by the International

Civil Aviation Organisation, the sources said.

Announcing its decision on Sunday, Iraq said it could not guarantee the security of civilian airlines over Iran from 1700 GMT Tuesday, which caused a scramble for seats at Tehran Airport.

Airlines which have temporarily stopped flights to Baghdad and Tehran — both hit in recent enemy attacks — include Alitalia, Air India, British Airways, Turkish Airlines and Swissair.

Lufthansa said in Bonn Wednesday it planned to continue twice-weekly scheduled flights from Frankfurt to Baghdad, but was monitoring the situation closely. The next flight was on Friday.

The airline, which has suspended scheduled flights to Tehran until at least March 30, evacuated more than 350 foreign nationals on a special flight from Tehran.

Korean Air Lines (KAL), which does not fly to Tehran, said Wednesday it had shortened a scheduled DC-10 flight to Baghdad from Seoul and that it would land in Kuwait from where 32 passengers would be taken to Baghdad by an Iraqi airliner.

Thai Airways International, which does not go to Tehran, said in Bangkok flights to Baghdad this week had been cancelled. "We might resume the flights next week if the situation improves," an official said.

The Royal Dutch Airline KLM said it planned to go ahead with its once-weekly flight to Baghdad on Saturday. But its flight will be reconsidered on Friday depending on the war situation.

A spokesman said KLM does not fly to Tehran. In London, British Airways cancelled separate twice-weekly services to Baghdad and Tehran because of the war threat to air lines.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
MAIN CHANNEL 17:00 — Koran 17:30 — Children's Programmes 18:15 — Walt Disney 19:00 — Local Programme on Agriculture 19:30 — Programme Review 19:45 — Week's Events 20:00 — News in Arabic 20:30 — A special programme on the anniversary of the Battle of Karameh 21:00 — Arabic Series 21:30 — Tomorrow's programme 22:15 — Arabic film 23:00 — News in Arabic 23:30 — Film continued FOREIGN CHANNEL 18:00 — A vous de jouer 19:30 — Theatre de Boulevard 19:45 — News in Hebrew 20:30 — Three's Company 21:10 — Documentary on Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) 22:00 — News in English 22:15 — Feature Film: Jiddon's Trumpet RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.60 KHz, SW	06:00 — News 06:30 — International Soccer Special 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:20 24 Hour News Summary 07:30 Public Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 News 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News 09:30 Week's Events 09:30 Short Takes 09:45 News Network UK 10:00 World News 10:30 Reflections 10:15 International Soccer Special 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:30 British Press Review 11:45 The World Today 11:50 Financial News 11:55 World Look Ahead 12:00 Morning 12:00 News Summary: Handel and the Orchestra 12:30 Yes Minister 12:40 World News 13:00 News about Britain 13:15 New Ideas 13:25 The Week in Wales 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio News 14:15 Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:15 UK 15:45 Kicking Up The Sawdust 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 On the Floor 17:00 Radio News 17:15 The Pleasure of Music 17:30 UK 17:45 Kicking Up The Sawdust 18:00 News Summary: Outlook 18:45 World News 19:00 Meridian 19:00 The 26:00 Newsweek 26:30 Discovery 21:00 News Summary: Outlook 21:45 Stock Market Report 21:45 Report on Religion 22:00 News Summary 22:30 Business Matters 23:00 News Summary 23:05 In the Moment 23:15 A Jolly Good Show 23:30 News Summary: The World Today 23:35 The Week in Wales 23:40 Financial News 24:00

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS	CINEMA	PLAY	CULTURAL CENTRES	CHURCHES	PRAYER TIMES
"An art exhibition by Arslan Ramadan at the University of Jordan library. "An exhibition of historical photos from the East and West banks of Jordan at the University of Jordan library. "An exhibition of china ink drawing by Mohammad Jalous at Petra Bank and Tourism. "Paintings exhibition by Adnan Helo at Alla Art Gallery. "L'armee des ombres" at 7:45 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre. "The Fool" (for children) at 4:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.	"An art exhibition by Arslan Ramadan at the University of Jordan library. "An exhibition of historical photos from the East and West banks of Jordan at the University of Jordan library. "An exhibition of china ink drawing by Mohammad Jalous at Petra Bank and Tourism. "Paintings exhibition by Adnan Helo at Alla Art Gallery. "L'armee des ombres" at 7:45 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre. "The Fool" (for children) at 4:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.	"L'armee des ombres" at 7:45 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre. "The Fool" (for children) at 4:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.	"The Fool" (for children) at 4:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.	Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 British Council 41520 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 39777 Hayat Arts Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667181 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Y.W.M.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 24590. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Orthodox) Jabel Amman, Tel. 25541. Assiout Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 25583. Assiout Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 25583. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751. Amman International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 816534.	06:18 — Fajr 05:41 — (Sunrise) Duhla 11:46 — Dhuha 15:11 — 'Asr 17:47 — Maghreb 19:10 — Isha.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC	MONEY EXCHANGE	WEATHER
This information is supplied by Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 09:15 — Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:15 — Bucharest (RO) 09:30 — Agaba (RJ) 09:30 — Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 09:45 — Kuwait (RJ) 09:45 — Jeddah (RJ) 09:45 — Cairo (RJ) 10:00 — Dhahran (RJ) 10:00 — Beirut (RJ) 10:35 — Dhahran, Riyadh (SV) 11:30 — Istanbul, Ankara (TK) 12:05 — Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 12:35 — London (BA) 14:00 — Kuwait (RJ) 14:00 — Cairo (RJ) 14:00 — Larissa (GR) 14:00 — Athens (GR) 14:00 — Cairo, Agaba (RJ) 17:00 — Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA) 17:25 — Athens (GR) 17:30 — New York, Vienna (RJ) 17:40 — Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ) 18:10 — Amsterdam, Larissa (KLM) 18:15 — Kuwait (RJ) 18:15 — Zurich, Larissa (SR) 18:45 — Athens (GR) 20:00 — Cairo (MS) 20:00 — Cairo (RJ) 21:10 — Baghdad (RJ) DEPARTURES 06:45 — Cairo (RJ) 06:50 — Damascus, Frankfurt (LH) 07:00 — Beirut (RJ) 07:15 — Agaba (RJ) 07:30 — Damascus, Paris (AF) 08:45 — Beirut (MEA) 11:00 — Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:15 — Agaba, Cairo (RJ) 11:30 — Athens (GR) 12:00 — Paris, London (RJ) 12:15 — Riyadh, Dhahran (SV) 12:30 — Brussels, Frankfurt (LH) 12:30 — Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 13:00 — Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF) 15:50 — Larissa (CY) 16:00 — Kuwait (RJ) 17:15 — Baghdad (IA) 19:30 — Kuwait (RJ) 19:40 — Doha, Muscat (RJ) 20:15 — Jeddah (RJ)	Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port: — Ibn Shuhad — Sherene — Kaks VI — Pritavak — Maratha Elegance — Azur Ann Kavar and Sons Company, Tel. 22324 (six lines) at your service. MONEY EXCHANGE Local currency rates in JLD Belgian franc — 62.71 63.2 Dutch guilder — 112.9 112.9 Egyptian pound — 303.6 308.3 French franc — 41.5 41.8 Iraqi dinar — 398.3 408.3 Italian lire (for 100) — 19.8 20.1 Japanese yen (for 100) — 159.9 161.2 Kuwaiti dinar — 13.66 13.73 Lebanese lira — 21 23 Omani rial — 1190.1 1201.6 Saudi riyal — 113.3 113.5 Saudi riyal — 114.4 115.1 Swiss franc — 44.3 44.7 Syrian lira — 35.2 36.5 UAE dirham — 112.5 113.5 U.K. sterling pound — 474.5 478.3 U.S. dollar — 111.5 111.9 W. German mark — 126.3 127.3	It will be partly cloudy, with chances for scattered showers and wind will be westerly moderate. In Agaba, it will be sunny, with northerly moderate winds and calm seas. Low/high temperature in deg.C Amman — 7/15 Agaba — 13/26 Damsis — 6/21 Jordan Valley — 12/23 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Agaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 59 per cent, Agaba 38 per cent.	WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be partly cloudy, with chances for scattered showers and wind will be westerly moderate. In Agaba, it will be sunny, with northerly moderate winds and calm seas. Low/high temperature in deg.C Amman — 7/15 Agaba — 13/26 Damsis — 6/21 Jordan Valley — 12/23 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Agaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 59 per cent, Agaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	HOSPITALS	NIGHT DUTY	GENERAL
Ambulance — 193, 775111 Fire, fire, police — 199 Blood bank — 775121 Civil Defence rescue — 661111 Police rescue — 219, 2111, 37777 Police headquarters — 39141 Traffic police — 56390-1 Electric Power Co. — 66381-2 Municipal waste service — 664888 Queen Alia Int. Airport — (08) 53333	Hussein Medical Centre — 81381-32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn — 44281-4 Akhla Maternity, J. Amn — 42441 Jabel Amman Maternity — 42362 Maternity, J. Amman — 42362 Palestine, Shmeisani — 664171-4 Shmeisani Hospital — 669131-4 University Hospital — 845845 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Amman — 77101-3 Al-Mushtaq Hospital — 667227-9 The Islamic, Abdali — 665292 Al-Ahli, Abdali — 664164 Italian, Al-Musharraf — 777101-3 Cabbage, J. Amman — 77101-3 Army, Marja — 91611	Dr. Nabil Hindawi — 773806 Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayem — 20115 Mreish pharmacy — 770910	Nairook pharmacy — 23672 Firas pharmacy — 661912 Al Salam pharmacy — 36731 Al Mamar pharmacy — 91048 Ministry of Interior Circle pharmacy — 668888 Wehdat pharmacy — 770603 TAXIS: Khayyam taxi — 41541 Bassem taxi — 811857 Syahia taxi — 43265 Hussein taxi — 21776 Khayyam taxi — 664888 Al-Kooz taxi — 21127 Al-Kooz taxi — 779274 IRRD Dr. Isam Al Saleh — 274722 Palestine pharmacy — 242085 ZARQA: Dr. Hisham Sharbat — 986632 Al Hikma pharmacy — (—) Freij pharmacy — (—) GENERAL Jordan Television — 773111 Radio Jordan — 774111 Ministry of Tourism — 42311 Hotel complaints — 666412 Price complaints — 661176 Telephone: Jordan and Middle East calls — 10 Overseas calls — 17 Cable or telegram — 10 Repair service — 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in JLD per kg.	Market prices
Apple — 180 / 180 Banana (Mukammal) — 240 / 210 Beans — 240 / 200 Broad beans — 140 / 110 Cabbage — 120 / 80 Chestnut — 500 / 440 Carrot (yellow) — 120 / 100 Carrot (black) — 150 / 120 Cauliflower — 120 / 90 Cucumber (large) — 90 / 70 Cucumber (small) — 140 / 110 Eggplant (large) — 160 / 120 Eggplant (small) — 140 / 100 Garlic — 180 / 140 Grapefruit — 210 / 180	Lemon — 140 / 120 Mandarin — 180 / 140 Marrow (small) — 100 / 80 Marrow (large) — 170 / 140 Onion (dry) — 180 / 150 Onion (green) — 140 / 120 Orange (Abu Sirra) — 300 / 250 Oranges (Shmeisani) — 200 / 170 Parsley — 70 / 70 Peas (American) — 600 / 540 Pepper (sweet) — 440 / 400 Pepper (hot green) — 720 / 640 Potatoes (local) — 160 / 120 Radishes — 90 / 60 Spinach — 120 / 90 Tomatoes — 140 / 100 Turnip — 110 / 80

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION	FOREIGN CHANNEL	RADIO JORDAN
MAIN CHANNEL 18:00 — Koran 18:30 — Cartoons 19:00 — Woody Woodpecker 19:15 — Children's Programmes 19:30 — Friday's Prayer 19:45 — Documentary 20:00 — Soccer 20:30 — Knight Rider 21:00 — Arabic Programme 21:30 — Marzouk 22:00 — Religious Programme 22:30 — News in Arabic 23:00 — Local Programme 23:30 — Arabic Series 24:00 — Arabic Variety Programme	17:00 — French Programme 17:30 — Feature Film 18:00 — News in French 18:30 — News in Hebrew 19:00 — Living Tomorrow 19:30 — Comedy: Open All Stars 20:00 — Murder She Wrote 21:00 — News in English	07:00 — Light Music 07:30 — News Summary 08:00 — Morning Show 18:00 — News Summary

THE BLOCS	BBC WORLD SERVICE
21:05 — The Blobs 21:05 — The 15th Century A.D. 21:30 — Over a Cup of Tea 21:30 — News Summary 21:30 — Jazz Hour 21:30 — News Headlines 21:30 — Close down	06:00 — News 06:30 — International Soccer Special 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:20 24 Hour News Summary 07:30 Public Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 News 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News 09:30 Week's Events 09:30 Short Takes 09:45 News Network UK 10:00 World News 10:30 Reflections 10:15 International Soccer Special 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:30 British Press Review 11:45 The World Today 11:50 Financial News 11:55 World Look Ahead 12:00 Morning 12:00 News Summary: Handel and the Orchestra 12:30 Yes Minister 12:40 World News 13:00 News about Britain 13:15 New Ideas 13:25 The Week in Wales 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio News 14:15 Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:15 UK 15:45 Kicking Up The Sawdust 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 On the Floor 17:00 Radio News 17:15 The Pleasure of Music 17:30 UK 17:45 Kicking Up The Sawdust 18:00 News Summary: Outlook 18:45 World News 19:00 Meridian 19:00 The 26:00 Newsweek 26:30 Discovery 21:00 News Summary: Outlook 21:45 Stock Market Report 21:45 Report on Religion 22:00 News Summary 22:30 Business Matters 23:00 News Summary 23:05 In the Moment 23:15 A Jolly Good Show 23:30 News Summary: The World Today 23:35 The Week in Wales 23:40 Financial News 24:00

ARRIVALS	DEPARTURES
06:30 — Agaba (RJ) 06:30 — Cairo (RJ) 06:45 — Kuwait (RJ) 06:45 — Jeddah (RJ)	06:30 — Amsterdam (KLM) 06:30 — Beirut (RJ)

ARRIVALS	DEPARTURES
06:30 — Agaba (RJ) 06:30 — Cairo (RJ) 06:45 — Kuwait (RJ) 06:45 — Jeddah (RJ)	06:30 — Amsterdam (KLM) 06:30 — Beirut (RJ)

American firm to conduct energy conservation study

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement was signed Wednesday between the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and Bechtel International consultants.

According to the agreement, the American company will conduct a study on the conservation of energy at electricity generating stations, the petroleum refinery company, cement factories, phosphate mines, and the potash, fertilizer, glass, ceramics, block, iron and steel factories.

An official source at the ministry expressed hope that recommendations expected from the study will substantially reduce energy consumption in these institutions which currently consume 32 per cent of the country's energy.

He said that reduction in energy consumption at these industries will have a positive effect on the cost of production and on the national economy.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib and the company's deputy director general.

Yousef, Austrian security chief discuss bilateral cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting director of the Austrian Public Security Department Robert Danzinger Wednesday paid a visit to the Public Security Department (PSD) where he was received by PSD Director Lieutenant General Diab Yousef, his assistants and high ranking officers. The two sides discussed the scope of bilateral cooperation between the public security departments in the two countries. They also exchanged commemorative gifts and watched a documentary on the development and organization of the Jordanian Public Security Department.

Mr. Danzinger, accompanied by Lt. Gen. Yousef and his assistants later visited the criminal investigation department where they were briefed by the department's officials on its tasks and activities. Mr. Danzinger expressed his admiration of the high level of progress and development reached by the PSD.

Mr. Danzinger arrived in Amman Tuesday on an official visit expected to last six days. During the visit he will hold talks with Interior Minister Suleiman Arar and Lieutenant-General Diab Yousef on cooperation between Austria and Jordan in security affairs.

Inspectors find imported gold to be sub-standard

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The jewellery section at the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Metrology and Standardization Department (MSD) has found that a quantity of imported gold does not conform with the specified gold standards, the section's director, Mr. Nimer Edrees, said Wednesday.

Mr. Edrees, quoted by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said that the department analysed a three kilogramme quantity of imported gold bearing a 21 carat stamp and results indicated that the gold was below the required standard and was restamped as 18 carat.

Mr. Edrees called on local goldsmiths to provide the jewellery section with a list of all the gold items and types they produce. The list must include a sample of each category to locate the stamp, he said.

Earlier this year MSD Director Salah Aldeen Taha announced that his department will launch a thorough campaign to test imported crafted gold in order to check its specification and to make

sure that it meets with Jordanian specifications.

Mr. Taha said that the MSD would also be keen to conduct tests on Jordanian gold production. He added that the MSD has recently embarked on testing and analysing samples of jewels and gold ingots which are locally manufactured and imported. These tests, Mr. Taha explained, aim to make sure that these products meet with the Jordanian standard specifications for gold crafts.

Results showed that Jordanian gold products do meet with Jordanian specifications except for two samples in which the carat scale was 0.002 units below standard. Nevertheless, some samples indicated 0.004 unit above the legal limit, he said. While some samples of foreign gold crafts were found to be under the legal limit, according to Mr. Taha.

He said that the MSD held a special meeting for representatives from the goldsmiths and silversmiths union in order to study the results of the survey and to organise goldsmithy in Jordan to maintain the high quality of Jordanian products.

Specialists call for information network, integrated research on dry land farming

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants in a rainfed agricultural information network workshop Wednesday called for the establishment of links between research agencies in rainfed agriculture in arid areas and private institutions to extend services to farmers in order to improve food production in the region. They also stressed the necessity to facilitate communications between research and extension institutions in those countries.

The three-day workshop was convened by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Near East Bureau and the Ministry of Agriculture.

ICARDA, based in Aleppo, Syria, is a regional centre which aims to assist the poorer farmers in rainfed agriculture in arid areas. The centre started research in 1977 and its activities extend to the dry region stretching from Morocco to Pakistan, according to the director general of ICARDA, Dr. Mohamed Nour.

The delegates from 21 countries and 15 national, regional and international organisations, including the Arab Centre for Studies of Dry Land and Arid Zones (ACSAD), the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), the European Economic Community (EEC), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Ford Foundation and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) took part in six workshops dealing with research in basic cereals, soil and water management, farming systems, small ruminants, food legumes and forage.

Information network

The focus of the discussions at the conference as well as in the workshops was the establishment of an information distribution network for research results on

rainfed agriculture potential.

The USAID, Near East Bureau, under its director Dr. Wilbur Thomas, presented a project for a Rainfed Agriculture Information Network (RAIN) which will be located at ICARDA and which should become the focal point for the exchange of technical agricultural research information in the Near East region.

Such a network is to serve the efficient distribution of research results and the identification of research gaps as well as to reduce parallel research in the various fields of rainfed agriculture, the cereal field being one of the most important.

The diet of the people in the Middle East region contains an extremely high proportion of cereals, especially durum and bread wheat, which supply three-fifths of their daily food. It is possible to double cereal yields in rainfed areas by new seeds and practices, as ICARDA's research has shown.

Recommendations

The discussions in the six workshops of the conference resulted in three main recommendations concerning the tasks of an information network: to identify research gaps and needs in rainfed agriculture, to exchange existing information and to identify training needs and programmes to meet them.

The participants in the workshop on cereals recommended the preparation of a directory of all barley and wheat research workers of the region, to increase visits of scientists of the research centres to the various countries and to provide resources for programmes for scientists to visit regional and international centres. They also advised support for the training of research technicians.

The question of training is closely linked to any progress in agricultural practice and research according to Dr. Mahmoud Duwayri, dean of the Faculty of Agr-



NOOR GRADUATES POLICEWOMEN: Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday distributes certificates to policewomen graduates at the Princess Basma Institute. The Queen also watched karate and judo displays performed by the students and also inspected the police ranks (Petra photo)

WHO delegation investigates deteriorating conditions

Ministry report describes W. Bank health clinic services as 'primitive'

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A World Health Organisation (WHO) delegation Wednesday met with officials from the Ministry of Health and delegates from the Ministry of Occupied Territories in the course of an investigation on the deteriorating health conditions of the Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation.

The team, which arrived in Amman on Tuesday evening, was presented a report prepared this month jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Occupied Territories with the help of the Jordanian Medical Council.

The report states that primary health clinics in the West Bank are available only in 43 villages which consists of more than 3,000 people. This number constitutes only one third of all the villages there. Moreover, the health services provided by these clinics are primitive, according to the report, and physicians visit these clinics only twice a week at the most, and then only for a few hours.

These clinics, which are also providing the majority of mother and child care services, lack the qualified staff and cover only 20 per cent of the population.

School health services include only teams which provide periodical medical examinations only to pupils of first elementary class and tawjihi. No dental services are provided.

The study also states that there are only seven government hospitals and one psychiatric hospital all over the West Bank. The hospitals include a total number of

640 beds, and the psychiatric hospital 220 beds, with a bed-population ratio of 1.9 beds for 1000 people, while the ratio in Israel is 6.9 beds. The total hospital beds in all governmental and private hospitals in the West Bank are 1311 and in Israel 26,754.

The report adds that the services of these hospitals are primitive compared to those of Israeli hospitals, and the number of hospital beds has not increased since the Israeli's occupation in 1967 in spite of the 4.7 per cent annual population growth.

An article in "Al Quds" Arabic daily newspaper, published in occupied Arab Jerusalem, was quoted as saying that the Israeli authorities have refused to allow the Arabs to carry out maintenance at the Princess Alia Hospital in Hebron and to build another floor to accommodate more patients. Princess Alia Hospital is the only one in Hebron governorate which includes 200,000 people, but the number of beds (100) has not increased since its construction in 1958. It also lacks specialists and proper equipment.

Reduced number of beds

The hospice hospital, in occupied Jerusalem, has even had its number of beds reduced from 120 to 50 by the Israeli authorities, according to the report. They also reduced the budget of the hospital and never introduced any new developments. The latest reports from the occupied Arab territories give indications that the Israeli authorities are now planning to close the hospital or to transform it into a mere health clinic, due to the lack of proper medical services.

This hospital is the only government hospital in the Jerusalem area, which includes 150,000 people, 70 per cent of whom are not covered by any health insurance and who are unable to pay the high fees in Israeli hospitals which amount to \$150 per night.

A new building in Jerusalem was allocated for this hospital in 1967 by the Jordanian government, but, after the war, the Israeli authorities used it as a police department. The closure of hospice hospital, the report continues, is preceded, by the closure of other health facilities in Jerusalem, such as the directorate of health, the central laboratory, the tuberculosis control centre and the blood bank.

The report also says that any local effort towards improving this situation has been stopped by the Israeli authorities. When the peo-

ple in Kalkelia, for example, constructed a new health centre from their own account, the Israeli authorities refused to allow them to use this centre as an outpatient clinic, and prevented them from providing the centre with the qualified staff and the necessary equipment.

The report adds that there has been no increase in the number of health personnel working in hospitals, clinics, or health centres since the Israeli occupation.

West Bank's budget

The current budget for health services in the West Bank, moreover, is almost the same as it was in 1967, with an average annual increase of only 1.4 per cent, which is very small compared to the very high rate of inflation in Israel. Besides, the financial and psychological situation of the people in the West Bank is deteriorating and affected by the Israeli practices of confiscating their lands, and by the high taxes imposed on the Arab institutions. Even in government hospitals, a patient who is not insured will pay three dollars per visit, and 80 dollars per night stay, which is outrageous if compared with the low income of the population.

The WHO team, which consists of three people, will visit Syria on Thursday, where they will receive more reports by the Health authorities there, and will then move on to inspect the occupied territories on the following day.

They will spend three days in Gaza, three days in Golan, two or three days in the West Bank, and perhaps a half a day in the southern part of Lebanon.

This WHO committee was appointed in 1973 by the WHO General Assembly with the specific purpose of inspecting the health situation of the population of the occupied territories.

The chairman of this committee, Dr. Traian Ionescu, told the Jordan Times that the very presence of such a committee has facilitated the development of solutions to problems connected with the medical and health care system in the occupied territories.

Dr. Ionescu added that his committee has been and will be working very closely with the general director of WHO and his staff in developing solutions to this delicate problem.

He concluded, however, by saying that "in spite of the committee's reports or WHO actions, only a right peace in a fair and equitable way will solve all this region's problems, health problems included."

Visiting official holds talks on housing projects

U.N. invites Hassan to human settlement talks

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations has formally invited His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to address the forthcoming conference on human settlements to be held in Kingston, Jamaica between April 29 and May 10, according to U.N. Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Administrator of the U.N. Human Settlements Centre Sumihiro Kuyama.

He told the Jordan Times that the conference decided to invite Prince Hassan, a world figure who has shown great interests in the field of human affairs.

Mr. Kuyama said that he discussed with Jordanian officials from the Ministries of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Planning and Social Development and the housing sector, means of furthering cooperation between Jordan and the U.N. centre for human settlements.

He said that Jordan should serve as a "model example" to

other developing countries in the field of housing. He added that he had discussions with Jordanian officials on projects included in the government's five year plan.

Concerning international housing Mr. Kuyama said that the Third World faces a difficult situation as many people can find no place to live.

He said that statistical data indicates that more than one million people are homeless worldwide and that this is a very large figure compared with 15 years ago. He added that 40 world capitals are facing population crisis.

Mr. Kuyama said that the present situation calls for sound housing planning to cater for people with limited incomes and to provide decent living conditions.

Regarding the U.N. Centre for Human Settlement, Mr. Kuyama said that the centre was established seven years ago and faces financial problems which impede the execution of its plans for developing countries.

He said that 1987 has been declared as the "International Year for Providing Shelter for the Homeless". He said that the U.N., in cooperation with individual countries, aims to provide shelter for as many people as possible by 1987.

He said that the centre has two projects in Jordan one of which is in the Madaba area and includes sanitary facilities for villagers while the second is a training project for planners and directors of urban projects in the Arab World.

Mr. Kuyama is on a tour of Arab and Asian countries. He will leave Jordan Friday for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Crown Prince celebrates birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday celebrated his 38th birthday and spent the day with an army unit of the Third Armoured Division which carries the Prince's name.

He was briefed on the unit's activities, attended live ammunition exercises and took part in an exercise mounting an armoured carrier and charging through enemy lines. The Crown Prince also witnessed the modernised tank "Tareq" fire on fixed targets. Later the Crown Prince met with unit officers and praised their standard.

The unit commander presented the Crown Prince with a token present and congratulated him on the occasion of his birthday. Prince Hassan was accompanied by the division's commander and other army officers.

Born in Amman on 20 March 1947, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Ibn Talal is the youngest brother of His Majesty King Hussein and heir to the throne.

Crown Prince Hassan was educated at Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford, England, from where he graduated in 1967 with a BA Honours in Oriental Studies. Since his return to Jordan, he has played an active role in Jordan's political, economic, military and social affairs and during the absence of King Hussein from the country, acts as Regent, assuming all the responsibilities involved therein. His Royal Highness holds the rank of Honorary General of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

On 14 November, 1968, Crown Prince Hassan married Sarvath Khajista Akhita Bann, youngest daughter of the late Mohammad Ikramallah H.P.K., C.L.E., K.C.M., of a distinguished Pakistani family. They have four children: Princess Rahma (born 13 August 1969), Princess Sumaya (born 14 May 1971), Princess Badia (born 28 March 1974), and Prince Rashid (born 20 May 1979).

In 1970, Crown Prince Hassan founded the Royal Scientific Society, geared towards the development of research relevant to the socio-economic development of Jordan. A year later, he was entrusted by Royal Decree with the



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath and their four children (J.T. file photo)

task of overseeing national development planning in Jordan. In his capacity as Jordan's ombudsman for development, he has been associated with the 1973-75, 1976-80 and 1981-85 development plans. His mark on the resulting revitalisation of Jordan's economy has been appreciated at home and abroad. Crown Prince Hassan chairs the Board of Trustees of the Arab Thought Forum which is a non-governmental organisation, established upon his initiative in 1981. This Forum is concerned with the challenges facing the Arab World within the intellectual, cultural and developmental fields.

Crown Prince Hassan has travelled extensively in his official capacity as well as accompanying the King on several state visits. Crown Prince Hassan speaks regularly at international fora covering subjects ranging from science and technology to human rights. In this regard, he addressed the 36th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in 1981 when he proposed the establishment of a New International Humanitarian Order, which has resulted in the founding of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues in 1983, of which he is co-chairman.

Crown Prince Hassan's hobbies include polo, squash, scuba-diving and swimming, mountaineering, archaeology and taekwondo. He has a black-belt in Karate, a pilot's licence for light aircraft and helicopter and his paratrooper's wings. His Royal Highness has been awarded the following:

- The distinguished Service Award presented by the U.S. Sports Academy for noteworthy contributions to international sport;
- An honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the Bogazici University, Turkey;
- The Medal of the President of the Italian Republic, presented during the Pio Manzù conference "Europe-Arab Nation: The Monetary Revolution", for "...decisive strong and intelligent boost to the progress of his country and for his unflinching commitment to the Arab cause";
- Cavaliere di Gran Croce, nell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana (Knight of the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic);
- Grand Cross of the Victorian Order, England.

Crown Prince Hassan has contributed a number of articles which have appeared world-wide in leading periodicals. He has also written three books: one entitled "A Study on Jerusalem" published by Longman in 1979 (in English, Arabic, Indonesian); the second entitled "Palestinian Self-Determination, a Study on the West Bank and Gaza Strip" published by Quartet Books in 1981 (in English, Arabic and French languages); and a third book entitled "Search for Peace" published by Macmillan in 1984.

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Excuse the confusion...

IN CAME a Renter dispatch from Israel Wednesday that said Prime Minister Shimon Peres was dropping his opposition to Middle East peace talks between the United States and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that would initially exclude Israel. In came another report a bit later, from the Associated Press this time, saying that Peres' chief spokesman, Uri Savir, ruled out such a possibility and that Israel still opposed any meeting in the U.S. prior to negotiations with Israel. Renter soon afterwards moved a second dispatch headlined "Peres Accepts U.S.-Arab Talks, But Without Palestinians", and in it the news agency incorporated Savir's statement. The Peres spokesman that Renter originally quoted was Baruch Askerov. His words in the original dispatch were changed to suit the second story's headline.

Everything boiled down to a long and confusing story, and we still do not know who made a mess of it: The Israelis or the news agencies, particularly Renter. In the end, however, our editors decided to use Renter's second dispatch, although we were not exactly satisfied with the whole episode. Very few people, but certainly not us, know at this time what Israel would accept or oppose. This is not to say that we are complaining. The question that should be asked, however, is: If Peres, the supposedly moderate Labour leader, is not willing to accept preliminary talks between the U.S. and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, what would he ever accept?

Still, it is not in this context that we should view what Peres' final decision will be on the issue. For his acceptance of the proposed Washington talks are contingent on basically two things: The U.S. side and domestic Israeli politics.

If Peres senses that the U.S. is leaning towards accepting President Mubarak's proposal he could not possibly say "no", even if the American mind is even half set on the matter. Secondly, depending on what the Israeli premier wants to do with his coalition partners, he will decide whether to accept or reject the idea of the talks in Washington.

When we heard the first report from Israel, we sort of had a cause to be optimistic that the ominous Middle East stalemate could finally find a way to be broken. Alas, confusion prevailed and obstinacy still lingered. The Israelis are once again reluctant to do things for peace. This may well be the simple answer to a complicated story.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Iraqi people fight on

DESPITE THE enormous offensive by the Iranians and despite the efforts by hostile forces to conceal the truth about the progress of the battles, the Iraqi people and armed forces came out victorious. This victory reemphasises again that nations with the will to exist can never be defeated by force and can never be discouraged from defending their soil however ferocious and arrogant the enemies were.

The Iraqi people, which has been struggling for nearly five years, did not make way for despair because, though the enemy was determined to pursue aggression, they were determined to achieve victory. The victory of the Iraqi people in defence of their soil is a victory for the whole Arab Nation, because Iraq is part of this nation, which has witnessed waves of invaders over the ages and dealt with various forms of aggression.

The success of the Iraqi armed forces to repulse the Iranian enemy reaffirms the Arab Nation's desire to achieve peace. Iraq has proved to the Iranians that they can achieve nothing by force and it will be more sensible to make peace. The Zionist enemy, which occupies Arab land in Palestine should realise that sooner or later the Arabs will gather force and repel aggression because this nation is not used to subjugation and defeat.

Al Dustour: Iran should yield to peace call

NOW THAT the last Iranian offensive has ended with an ignominious defeat for the Tehran regime, the only remaining alternative for the Iranians is to negotiate for peace. Iraq has never ceased calling for an end to the conflict and the start of a new peaceful era of relationship between the Iranian people and their Arab neighbours. In return, Iran had been pursuing efforts to prolong the futile war and cause huge manpower and material losses to both sides.

Following the most recent victory for Iraq, Iran has no other way but to seek peace and a negotiated settlement for its border disputes with Iraq, Iran, which found itself incapable of achieving any of its ambitious dreams, should benefit from the peace bids that are being made by the various U.N. and Islamic organisations. Apart from the efforts being exerted by the U.N. secretary general, the Organisation of Islamic Countries and India to make peace, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has just announced its readiness to embark on fresh efforts to end the conflict peacefully.

The GCC member states are now invited to take the initiative in view of the seriousness of the situation and to fend off danger from their doorsteps.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israeli hand is behind

WE CANNOT help believing that the new rebellion in the ranks of the Falangist Party is but an attempt to divide Lebanon into mini-states, ruled by various factions. This move is clearly designed to prevent any social, political and constitutional reforms from taking place in the country. The leader of the rebelling militia is well known for his collusion with Israel, which stands to gain from any weakening of Lebanon's domestic front.

However hard Israel tries to deny any involvement in this issue, all indicators point to its collusion with the militia leader in an attempt to bring about a collapse within the legitimate Lebanese government. The rebels are trying to form a separate state in east Beirut and other parts of Lebanon in total collusion with Israel, which is trying to perpetuate its stay in Lebanon as long as possible. Perhaps the new rebellion is the last arrow which the Israelis have with which they hope to kill national reconciliation in Lebanon.

All factions that form the present coalition in Lebanon are now called on to join forces and abort the conspiracy before it can lead to another round of civil war.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

U.S. — away from Israel towards the Arabs

By Franz Schurmann

THE EVER so slow drift of U.S. policy away from Israel and towards the Arabs is becoming evident. The signs are small and their importance can easily be exaggerated, but they are real.

Consider the visit of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Washington. The Saudi delegation appeared in a kaffiyah, defiantly presenting an image that newspaper cartoonists have satirised for years. They gave a lavish party, as they often do. The president and his top cabinet members showed up. The press coverage was minimal but matter-of-fact.

All this might seem trivial, but the Pentagon took advantage of the new mood to announce sales of advance aircraft to the Saudis. In the mid-

1970's, similar announcements led to a furor in Congress.

And the Israelis have begun their withdrawal from Lebanon to the intense enthusiasm of the Lebanese. The U.S. press too reports this, matter-of-factly.

The Americans and the Soviets discussed the Middle East in Vienna. This too was reported with no emphasis but also with no criticism.

Perhaps the most interesting sign was the strong praise of Syria by the White House when a kidnapped American reporter was turned over to the Americans in Damascus. At first, the White House hesitated. But then it made the decision to offer full praise. In early February, former

Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who supported the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, testified before Congress that the U.S. should have struck back at "terrorists" by hitting Syrian positions. Mr. Schultz too is on record as favouring strikes against alleged terrorists, but he seems to have had Iran in mind. In any case, the small signs surrounding the freeing of the reporter show that the White House now definitely includes Syria among the Arab countries with which it wants better relations.

The mood in the Israeli government must be very dark over these latest trends. But some grumbling aside, the Israelis are silent. Washington too is silent. Yet all this silence masks intense diplomacy which

has speeded up since Mr. Reagan's reelection victory last November.

My own view is that the policy drift away from Israel comes from a confluence of several causes. Washington knows that a stable Middle East is the best guarantee of stable U.S.-Soviet relations. It understands its own inability to call the shots. It recognises that Israel is too puny and unreliable a foundation on which to base its Middle Eastern policy. It knows that the current low inflation rate is largely due to low oil prices which could zoom up again in the event of another Middle Eastern crisis.

Most people believe that diplomacy is mainly a matter of personal relations. Historical forces seem like abstractions

which only academics take seriously. But anyone who has been a leader in organisation knows that what you do is always a combination of what to do and what you can do. The "can do" is determined by powerful currents. If you swim with the currents, you go faster. If you resist, you get tired and have to drop out of the race. The current usually wins.

The most powerful current shaping long-term U.S. policy in the Middle East is not Zionist pressure, but the realisation that the Middle East is the single place in the world that could ignite World War III or bring about a collapse of the world economy. And there is a second realisation: that the U.S. cannot dominate the

Middle East. The bottom line is that the U.S. has no choice but to come to terms with the entire Arab World just as it came to terms with China.

The Arabs today could win no more resounding victory than to show to the world that Lebanon can again be unified, that it can resume its historical prosperity, and that the various political forces in that country can defeat all the trickery and machination coming from the outside that have already cost them one hundred thousand dead. Such a political victory will speak louder than one hundred victorious battles. It will turn the drift in U.S. Middle Eastern policy into a powerful current.



Add my name to ADL's blacklist

AMERICAN-ARAB Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Executive Director Omar Kader recently demanded that the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) add his name to their lists of individuals who fail to share their views on the Middle East and U.S.-Israel relations.

The lists appear in ADL's "Pro-Arab Propaganda: Vehicles Voices" and AIPAC's College Guide. ADC National Chairman James Abourezk, Columbia University Professor Edward Said, Rabbi Elmer Berger and Georgetown University Professor Michael Hudson are among those listed.

Mr. Kader sent letters to ADL National Chairman Kenneth Blackin and AIPAC Executive Director Thomas Dine suggesting that since he was executive director of an organisation that (ADL and AIPAC) identify as "a vehicle of pro-Arab propaganda," he qualified for inclusion on the lists.

At this writing, neither organisation has responded to Mr. Kader's request. ADL's and AIPAC's compilations of names have caused

considerable concern among professional groups. In November 1984 the Middle East Studies Association, the largest organisation of scholars and specialists in all disciplines relating to the Middle East, unanimously passed a resolution condemning ADL and AIPAC for maintaining and distributing such lists.

"Since the days of Richard Nixon's 'enemies list,' most Americans have found politically inspired blacklists of any kind distasteful and undemocratic," said Mr. Kader. "On the other hand, there is a certain prestige value in being included on a list of so many

distinguished Americans. Therefore, I have asked these organisations to include my name on their lists — especially in view of the fact that the mere utterance of the words 'Palestine' and 'Palestinian' appears to be the principal criterion for inclusion."

Mr. Kader, formerly a professor at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, served as executive director of the United Palestinian Appeal before assuming the director's post at ADC. United Palestinian Appeal is a private relief agency that also appears on the blacklists — ADC news release.

Pravda urges reexamining work attitudes

By Peter Millar
Renter

MOSCOW — Soviet officials, workers and factory managers were told Wednesday to take a new look at their attitudes to work and to prepare for a decisive turn to a policy of intensive development.

An editorial in the official Communist Party newspaper Pravda repeatedly referred to the need for "discipline," indicating that the word is to be as firm a slogan under Mikhail Gorbachev, the new leader, as it was under Yuri Andropov.

"Strengthening of organisation, order and discipline in all spheres of production and management is of ever-growing importance for the decisive turn of our economy on to the path of intensive development," Pravda said.

Mr. Gorbachev took power last

week on the death of President Konstantin Chernenko, whose 13-month rule has been widely seen as a stopgap period between his predecessor Mr. Andropov and Mr. Gorbachev.

Wednesday's Pravda editorial quoted Mr. Gorbachev's call for law, order and labour discipline in his first speech as party leader. The past winter had shown signs of an economic downturn that had to be halted, the editorial said.

Economic figures for the first two months of 1985 showed a serious decline in the rate of growth of Soviet industrial production and labour productivity.

Pravda cited poor planning as an example of bad labour discipline and criticised the energy, transport and metallurgy sectors for failing to meet many of their planned targets.

The editorial also attacked ministries, which in the Soviet eco-

nomy act as central management for individual production sectors, for trying to get the maximum possible investment and lowest possible production targets in the next five-year plan.

The poor economic performance in the first two months of the year required a major effort from now on, it said.

"To successfully meet targets for this year and the whole five-year plan, party, local council, trades union and Communist youth organisations need to take a new look at the organisation of socialist competition," Pravda said.

"Socialist competition" is the term used to encourage factories to vie with each other in output in the absence of the capitalist profit motive.

Under the terms of an economic experiment launched under Mr. Andropov and thought to have Mr. Gorbachev's personal bac-

king, some factories are being allowed more autonomy over use of funds.

This means they can give top workers higher bonuses. Also, factories that improve production figures will be allocated more funds while those that do not meet targets may find less money at their disposal.

Pravda compared results at two metal plants in the Urals. Despite the fact that both had faced power cuts and other difficulties caused by the cold winter, one had upper production by 6.4 per cent while the other had failed to meet all targets.

Also singled out for criticism was a major timber plant at Ust-Ilimsk in Siberia. Pravda said the plant, built to soak up surplus power from a vast but much under-used hydro-electric station, had failed to meet targets in January and February.

U.S., Mexico have difficulty getting along well

By George Gedda
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even in the best of times, there has been an uneasy intimacy between the United States and Mexico but seldom has the challenge of getting along seemed more formidable than now.

Historically, the two countries have shown an ability to work out their differences quietly and amicably, with each recognising that without the cooperation of the other the interests of both would suffer.

For the past several years, the mutual confidence of the two countries has been shaken by sharply differing perceptions about the nature of the turmoil in Central America and, to a lesser extent, by personality conflicts between senior diplomats from both sides.

And for the past month, these differences have been increased by the circumstances surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) official in Mexico.

The administration of President Ronald Reagan believes the case has dramatised what it regards as pervasive corruption at lower lev-

els of Mexican law enforcement agencies. Mexico, on the other hand, has reacted angrily to the U.S. allegations, charging that Washington has ignored a concerted effort Mexico says it has made in curbing illicit drug trafficking.

Until recent years, Mexico's foreign policy was seen by the United States as a forgivable annoyance. Alone among members of the Organisation of American States (OAS) Mexico refused to abide by the mandatory economic and diplomatic sanctions the OAS imposed against Cuba in 1964.

Mexico has long argued that revolutionary movements in the hemisphere should be allowed to take their course without interference from the outside.

This has been Mexico's rationale for its friendship towards the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, an attitude that has taken on added political significance over the past two years because of Mexico's role as one of four Latin American countries attempting to mediate peace in Central America in the Contadora process.

U.S. officials believe psychological factors contribute gre-

atly to Mexico's foreign policy views. Mexico is, after all, a country that was forced to surrender half of its territory to the United States almost a century and a half ago. Since then, a priority need of each Mexican government has been to avoid the perception that it is following U.S. orders.

Robert Krueger, a former U.S. congressman who once served as U.S. coordinator for Mexican affairs, said Mexico bears an additional psychological burden: the disparity in living standards between the United States and Mexico, he said, is greater than that of any other neighbours elsewhere in the world.

Accordingly, successive Washington administrations have approached Mexican problems with extreme care, mindful at even small signs of U.S. paternalism could generate nationalistic fervour in Mexico.

There also have been instances of close cooperation. In August 1982, when Mexico was faced with the prospect of defaulting on its foreign debt, the Reagan administration acted quickly to head off that possibility.

Both sides recognise, however, that the financial assistance the

United States provided was not an act of generosity. They noted that a financial crisis in Mexico possibly leading to political instability and social turmoil would serve the interests of neither country.

Mexico believes the Reagan administration has grossly overreacted to the murder of DEA agent Enrique Camarena Salazar, regarding it as a "police matter" that should not affect diplomatic ties.

U.S. officials believe that about nine Mexican families are involved in drug trafficking and that their identities are known both to Mexican authorities and to the DEA. But there have been no significant arrests in eight years, according to the officials.

Mexican authorities have pointed out to U.S. officials that the United States itself has had difficulty in prosecuting leading organised crime figures.

This past week, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda had a lengthy meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and, afterward, both sides seemed intent on cooling the rhetoric generated by the Camarena case.

LETTERS

Good plays stand test

To the Editor:

WE WOULD like to comment on an article published in the Jordan Times on Sunday, March 17 and written by Sana Atiyeh which discussed audience attendance at Arabic and English plays.

It is probably true and unfortunate that Arabic plays do not attract as large an audience as foreign theatre productions. However, we find Mr. Yanis' play "The Choice", to be a bad example in this case (which by the way we attended), since it is almost — with some minor adjustments — an exact replica of the film/play "Educating Rita". We were extremely embarrassed as Jordanian theatre-goers, as Mr. Yanis did not give credit where credit was due — the reference to Pygmalion was therefore deceptive.

If Mr. Yanis can "clown" his way on the stage as well as he did on television in "Liali Amman", then by all means let him also do so on the stage. He will stand a better chance of attracting a larger audience.

Muna Khaasab,
Liliane Ayoub,
Ellen Kettaneh Khouri,
Amman.

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ما قبل الميلاد

What has become of 'good time' mothers?

By Josephine Zamaniri
Special to the Jordan Times

IN MOST societies the upper echelon is generally able to provide hired help in the home and very often the children of such families are partly raised by employees: the British nanny is a good example. However the Jordanian, indeed the Arab situation, is quite different as not only are the elite, hiring maids but the middle class too. And unlike the English nanny working for an English family, the middle class Jordanian "Mushim" is frequently employing a Sri Lankan Buddhist to raise his children.

With over five thousand maids in Amman, quick mathematics based on the two child family indicates that at least ten thousand Jordanian children have some contact with the foreign labour force. The degree to which a child is affected by a maid depends greatly upon his mother. In some households the servant only performs menial tasks, moving through the spectrum to the family where the mother is rarely present in the home and the maid becomes a kind of surrogate.

What then is the driving force behind the present maid phenomenon? Sociologist Dr. Mohammad Barhoum from the University of Jordan sees the servant as very much a status symbol.

He contends that two inter-related factors contributed to the present situation, the growth

of foreign influence and the subsequent breakdown of the tribal and extended family in the middle and upper classes. For economic reasons, lower class families have retained their traditional structure and a working class woman could go to work, should she be permitted, and have her children cared for by mother, mother-in-law, etc. as generally older members of the family share the same house.

Social class in Jordan is not clearly defined and remains fluid and easily changeable, according to Dr. Barhoum. For example *fellah* (peasant) can sell extensive lands and then financially join a higher class than he would traditionally belong to. The problem has been accentuated, continued Dr. Barhoum, by the availability of easy money made in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia as well as land sales within Jordan. Such money in the last decade has not been used maturely to develop the country but squandered on material possessions which the nouveau riches perceive to represent Western status symbols and signal to fellow Jordanians that "we have arrived socially". So the maid along with the Mercedes and for wealthier Jordanians, the huge villa (which requires two or three maids as the housewife "couldn't possibly manage") have become indicative of status for Ammanites.

But what of the Jordanian child? How does he cope with his

foreign servant cum Dr. Barhoum points that a child's biological, psychological and social needs must be fulfilled if he is to grow to maturity properly. A maid can compensate in certain areas but cannot substitute entirely for the mother as even the best of maids on completing a two-or-three year contract will return to her own country and sever links forever with the child.

Dr. Barhoum also points out that a maid in the home is likely to reinforce dependence in Jordanian males. He says that frequently Arab women are more independent than men as the Arab mother ties her sons closer to herself than her daughters. With the maid then as employee, the child has no need to perform even simple tasks and thus will become even more dependent.

However, by far the most mentioned disadvantage of the maid-child relationship is the language and communication problem. Noted by Dr. Barhoum, and prominent educationalist Dr. Sue Dahdah as well as University of Jordan psychologist, Miss Raghad Shreim, speech difficulty is the most visible manifestation of foreign servant and Jordanian child relationship. Miss Shreim points out that for a child to learn a language properly he needs a good model and an Arab child spoken to in broken English is neither master of his own tongue nor is he

conversant in English.

"Language learning takes place from the first year of life," she adds, "and an inadequate grasp of either phonetics, vocabulary or structure could affect the social, emotional or cognitive development of the child". Dr. Dahdah continued that a child with a poor grasp of language will have difficulty with communication and consequently with his school work as he will not perceive ideas and concepts readily.

For Dr. Dahdah the principal of the Abdul Hamid Sharaf school, the problems of maid-child relationship lie in two areas, the practical and the educational. She stressed that in many cases, parents with maids in the home behaved conscientiously. However, she had noted that children sent to school by the servant, "did not eat breakfast, were given junk food in their lunch boxes," and that, "their clothes were not as tidy as they could be." Educationally, she believes, such children are not doing well academically, as they were losing "their own cultural identity and values. This, coupled with language learning disabilities, does not bode well for the academic future of such children.

Miss Shreim says that the first year of the child's life is crucial to his later development and that it is quite fallacious to maintain that a baby cared for by a maid for much

of the time will suffer no ill-effect. The infant is aware of the way he "is held, carried, fed and talked to," she added. Even the best of maids will not perform these tasks as a mother would. Miss Shreim recommends that where possible, the mother remain at home with the child until he reaches the age of three. If the mother must work, then she advises supervision of the servant, by a family relative, ideally grandmother or mother-in-law.

At the age of three it is preferable to send a child to nursery as there they will be cared for by professional child-minders, and he will learn new language and social skills.

Miss Shreim stresses that the degree of influence a maid has on a child depends on two factors: the time which the maid spends with him and her educational standard. A child left alone every morning and several afternoons of the week, with an ignorant maid is unlikely to fare well from such a relationship. Conversely, a child whose mother remains at home to supervise an educated servant will suffer little or no ill-effect. Miss Shreim adds that maids are not nannies; few, if any, have qualifications to look after children and many bring physical and psychological problems with them which should completely bar them from any contact with children. Contamination from physical

illnesses associated with maids is easily avoidable, according to Dr. Abdul Badi Hamam. Although servants are supposed to have a health clearance from their country of origin, a few may carry quite nasty diseases including T.B. scabies, skin disorders, malaria, leishmaniasis as well as the ever-present hair lice. Dr. Hamam has seen little cross-contamination, but as the illnesses are serious, he recommends that a foreign maid be thoroughly checked before entering the host home.

Dr. Hamam can recall few instances of children abused by maids; however, he points out that negligence can and does occur on a minor scale and a doctor would not be consulted. Probably in no other class or society has the rearing of children been handed to a foreign labour force on such a scale as that existing in Jordan today. The effects are not specific yet, however the negatives and positives (if any) should emerge in the next decade, according to the experts.

But how to minimize the problem now? Both Dr. Barhoum and Miss Shreim recommend staying home with young children rather than leaving them with the maid, screen the servant properly, suggests Dr. Hamam, and be with the kids, says Dr. Dahdah. Do things with them, most of all, and spend "quality time" together, they advise.

Randa Habib's
Corner

Never on Sunday or Wednesday

THE STAFF of the Jordan Times are very nice, I think. Yes, truly in all honesty they are cute, relaxed and a bit crazy. They have all what it takes for an editing team to be "special". All of them, even the editor of page five. I say even him because he is the one I deal with for my corner. Of course he very often mixes Sundays and Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays... but he still is nice. One should know him. When my last corner appeared on Sunday instead of Monday, I called him, not feeling angry (since this is not the first time): "Issam, what day are we today?" He realised what he had done, "so it is Sunday and not Monday?" "Well, yes, unfortunately it is Sunday and it is not today that people expect the corner, but tomorrow".

"Sorry Randa, but after long working hours I mix the days and by force of habit I automatically send all I receive for printing". What could I answer, what is done cannot be undone. As for you who have phoned me to ask: "Randa, have you changed the days of the corner?" No, I haven't changed them, corners will still be on Mondays and Thursdays, as it has been for almost four years.

Needless to tell you that this famous Monday where there was no corner, some were surprised: "You have not written this week?" They asked, and I had to explain to them that they would find the corner in yesterday's paper. In short, this created a bit of a mess...

What could be done? I ordered a big sign with big letters proclaiming "Never on Sunday" that I intend to give to the editor of page five, hoping that from now on I will be faithful to my appointments with you.

To awaken the creator in man

What is hypnosis? According to a traditional view, it is an entirely passive state in which a person can only thoughtlessly obey the hypnotist's commands.

But as a psychotherapist I am convinced that hypnosis is a key to a door behind which man's creative potential is concealed.

By Vladimir Raikov

THE GREEK word "hypnos" means "sleep". A sleeper really is passive and lacks will. Perhaps this explains the prevailing opinion about the state of a hypnotised individual?

In actuality, hypnosis is a special state of activity of the mind, nervous system and even of the internal organs. In a hypnotic state a person is prepared to activate the latent internal potential of his body, of which he is unaware in an ordinary state. But he needs to be given a command.

Modern psychotherapy includes hypnosis among the basic methods of therapy. But why not suppose that if hypnosis is able to cure some morbid psychic manifestations, then in principle it could also help perfect and develop a healthy person?

In truth, a new quality in world perception, a different view of things, is characteristic of creativity. And it is precisely a state of hypnosis that creates ideal conditions in which this can be brought about: man develops a fresh vision of the environment and when certain suggestions are made, feels himself a "new" exceedingly creative personality — for instance, a famous artist, writer, musician, scientist. And once he feels that he is creative, he proceeds to create in the full sense of the word — play the piano, write, draw, resolve scientific problems. In doing so he experiences an emotional uplift, creative inspiration, the joy of constructive success.

Naturally, he draws, plays the piano, sings and solves mathematical problems on the basis of his abilities and knowledge, but to the full or even reserve extent of his powers, of which many people have not the slightest idea.

In a hypnotised individual all his internal psychic resources are activated in the direction of achieving the creative task. Time disappears for him, so to speak, everything becomes subordinated to his inspired impulse. Psychophysiological, the phenomenon is connected with the ability of hypnosis to intensify the activity of the brain's right hemisphere, which is "in charge of" intuition, aesthetic and musical perception, the ability to think creatively.

In one test I conducted, a first-year student of a conservatoire played piano pieces, according to an expert evaluation, at the level of a first-rate keyboard artist.

The abilities awakened in a state of hypnosis as a rule do not disappear after the session, they are "retained" as "post-hypnotic inertia." If a hypnotised person draws, he begins to see the world through the eyes of an artist in real life as well, and after 20 to 30 sessions of hypnosis drawing his works can be shown at professional art exhibitions.

Incidentally, I have organised several exhibitions of works by people who had learned to draw in a hypnotic state. The latest one was held in the exhibition hall of the Molodaya Gvardiya Publishing House in Moscow, attracting great attention both on the part of the public and the press. The exhibition was the subject of documentary films made by Moscow, Estonian and Norwegian television, Swedish Radio and Moscow World Service featured programmes about it. Japanese television is also planning a film on the subject.

While studying the distinctions of drawing under hypnosis, I evolved a special ultra-fast method of teaching the fundamentals of artistic perception of tone and colour. And this made it possible to

rapidly teach the art of drawing without resorting to hypnosis. Use was made of the ability to vividly picture visual images and to focus attention in the set direction of creative work.

There is the fairly widespread view that the effects of hypnotic emotional experience are only a kind of act, like that of an actor, and that everything a man can emotionally perceive and reproduce under hypnosis be can in principle perceive and reproduce in ordinary life as well. My experiments have unambiguously demonstrated that a person's behaviour under hypnosis is not an act, but a genuine inner state of mind. He becomes for a while the double, one could say, of some great artist or a musician whose image is being suggested to him.

In my experiments with music students I observed a deepened insight into the musical interpretation of the work being played and an improvement in technique. A series of sessions was followed by a noticeable rise in the general level of musical performance. For example, the images of Rachmaninov, Gieseking, Fischer and Liszt were suggested to the pianists, the image of Kreisler to the violinists, the images of Casals and Piatigorsky to the cellists.

I also made complex experiments in the study of the reality of emotional experiences in a hypnotic state. In an effort to ensure that the subjects' behaviour was not an act, I suggested the image of a newborn baby to a person in deep hypnosis. I observed extremely complex neuropsychological responses, such as a baby's unfocused gaze, and foot and hand reflexes inherent in newborn babies alone. A healthy adult could never "act out" such symptoms in a normal state.

Moreover, the research reveals the phenomenal potential of human memory, in which all information about the self ever since he was born is recorded. One can even speak of a special unconscious physiological memory concealed in deep "echoes". Consequently, it is possible to hope that it can be suggested to a patient that he feels as healthy as he did when he was 20.

This offers a method of treating diseases which arise when the nerves act up — many forms of neurosis, initial forms of ulcer, hypertension, asthma, heart diseases. It should be borne in mind, however, that hypnotic suggestion merely mobilises the body to combat the ailment by bringing its hidden resources into play.

Suggestion sessions should lead the sensation of health to strengthen, passing into the habit of feeling well. And the habit in turn should normalise processes which, as a rule, unconsciously govern the state of mind, nerves, internal organs, in other words, are responsible for the health.

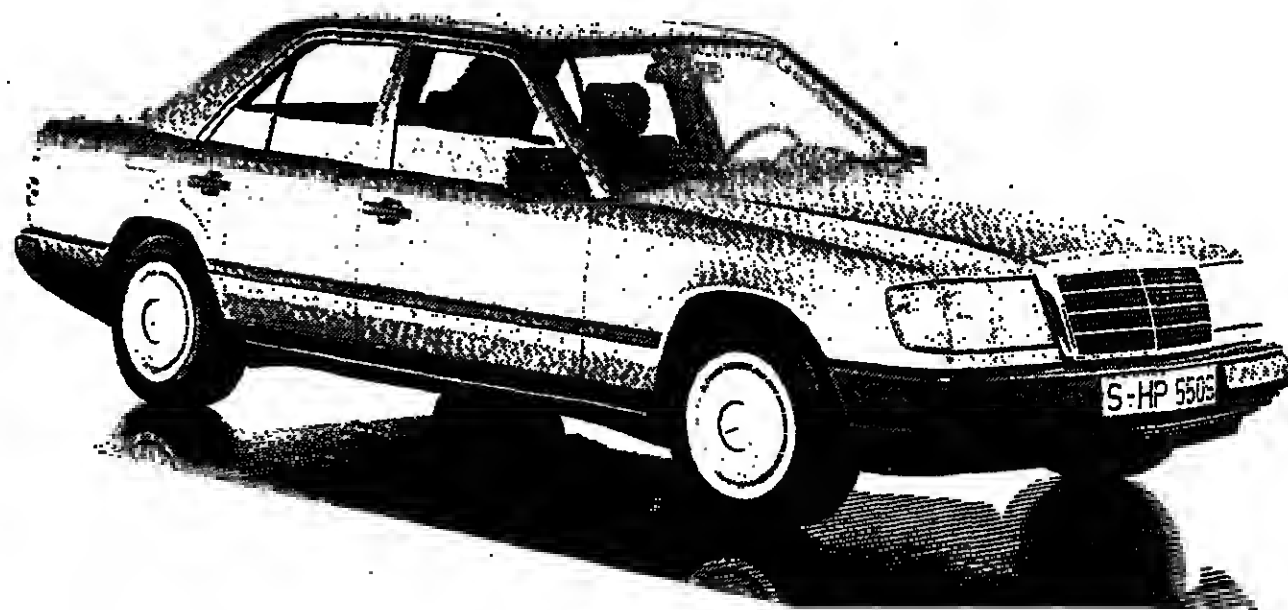
I noticed one oddity: following hypnosis sessions every single patient began to eat and sleep less — this also became a habit. Simultaneously, there was an increase in work capacity. So, it is a useful habit. The person did not become exhausted. On the contrary, the organism begins to function in natural ways more economically, with greater efficiency — another beneficial, if side, effect of hypnosis.

As said earlier, both suggested creative activity and suggested health recovery are a common property of the human body to put its hidden reserves into action under hypnosis. The result is a growing emotional uplift in day-to-day life. It was no accident that back in ancient times it was observed that following a battle wounds healed much faster in the victors than in the vanquished — Spunkin.

Vladimir Raikov is a well-known Soviet scientist, associated member of the editorial board of the British Journal of Experimental and Clinical Hypnosis, has several papers on internal psychic resources.



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Peace efforts fail to end Sidon violence

(Continued from page 1)

peace in the area after the evacuation of Israeli forces last month, called for army reinforcements to put down what the "Israeli-inspired attempt to spilt Sidon" on sectarian lines.

He denounced the Falangist militia demands for the creation of an all-party "security committee" to supervise the area.

Lebanese leaders, including Mr. Karame, Sh'ite Amal chief and cabinet minister Nabih Berri and Socialist leader Walid Jumblatt have denounced the Falangist revolt as Israeli-inspired. Dr. Geagea has close ties with Israel.

The clashes, which began on Monday when Falangist gunmen took over Sidon's eastern suburbs, have claimed 10 dead and 47 wounded, Red Cross officials in the city said. Thousands of residents were forced by the gunmen to flee the area Tuesday.

Security sources said 24 hours of efforts to restore peace failed when the "Lebanese Forces" rejected an army deployment plan in the suburbs, proposed by civic leaders and local militia chiefs.

They said the Falangist militia would only allow army patrols in the area and would not let it hold strongpoints.

Sidon civic leaders and militia chiefs said they still relied on the army to restore order and avert a broad sectarian conflict. Militias

were holding back from the fight until all other efforts were exhausted, they added.

In Beirut, the Falangist rebels, led by militia chief Samir Geagea, said they had taken complete control of the "Lebanese Forces" in a reshuffle of the command structure of the force.

"We have now got complete control," Dr. Geagea told Reuters after an announcement that a 10-man rebel committee had declared itself the militia's new "executive committee."

Israel, which invaded Lebanon in June 1982, has announced a three-stage plan to withdraw its troops and on Feb. 16 implemented the first stage. However, observers say that the Falangist rebellion appeared to be aimed at widening a pro-Israeli militia enclave near the Lebanese-Israeli border.

An Israeli military spokesman said Tuesday Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin met Israeli-backed Lebanese militia leader Antoine Lahd and toured the Lebanese border area.

Israel hopes to set up as a security belt in the area controlled by Lahd's "South Lebanese Army" (SLA) militiamen after Israeli troops withdraw from Lebanon in a few months, the spokesman said.

Israel, which has been coming under repeated attacks on its occupation army, launched its widespread campaign earlier this

Fateh leaders approve accord

(Continued from page 1)

Two senior Fateh Central Committee members, Salah Khalaf and Mahmoud Abbas, reportedly discussed suggestions to amend the accord with the King during a one-day visit to Amman two weeks ago. Both Jordan and the PLO, however, have declared, in separate statements, that the accord was not amended but clarified. According to the sources, both the PLO Executive Committee and the Fateh Central Committee had finally come "to prefer the original wording of the accord" despite the fact that the Jordanian government "did react positively to initial Palestinian suggestions for further clarification of the plan."

The Palestinian sources, however, confirmed to the Jordan Times that the original phrasing of the accord "has been left intact" but did not reveal whether the PLO has actually agreed on a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation or it still is committed to joint Arab delegation in which the PLO would participate as a separate party.

The Fateh Central Committee communiqué did not clarify this point but referred to "a joint delegation" without any further explanation.

British Olympic Association seeks bids for '92 Games

LONDON (AP) — The British Olympic Association (BOA) announced Tuesday it is seeking bids to stage the 1992 summer Olympic Games and said at least one British city was likely to come forward.

After a meeting in London, the BOA said it would "encourage and assist any city in Britain considering making a viable bid" for the 1992 Games.

Discussions were already taking place with officials in Birmingham and Manchester, BOA Chairman Charles Palmer told a news conference, while London was another possible host.

Staging the Games in Britain "could be done, and it could be done successfully," he said.

Last month, the BOA said it was being encouraged by the government to offer London as a venue but made no mention of any other possible cities. The government said at the time it was interested in bringing the Games to Britain but denied reports it had officially backed the idea of staging them in the capital.

"We have had no formal contact with the government at all at this stage but we have had some informal discussion with the Minister for Sport, Neil Macfarlane,"

said Palmer on Tuesday.

"He has expressed to us that there is considerable interest across all political parties in seeing the Games coming to Britain."

"So far no (British) city has bid for it but I would be very surprised if there were not at least two British cities in contention."

The deadline for bids to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, to stage the 1992 Games is March next year.

"Time is getting a little short. Despite the March deadline, the IOC is in fact putting pressure on us and everyone else by saying they would like to have notification of a bid by May 15 of this year," said Palmer.

So far, six bids have made to the IOC for the 1992 Games, from Barcelona, Brisbane, Belgrade, New Delhi, Paris and a joint Dutch application by Rotterdam and Amsterdam. London hosted the tournament in 1908 and 1948.

"Once the BOA is convinced of

the suitability of any city in terms of sports facilities and an Olympic village, I would think a British city would have a good chance" of hosting the Games, Palmer told reporters.

Applications to hold the Olympic Games traditionally are made jointly by the interested city and its National Olympic Committee. But London is unlikely to have a city-wide body to represent it.

The Greater London Council, which administers the capital's local affairs, is to be scrapped next year by the government leaving power in the hands of the boroughs.

Palmer admitted the shortage of adequate indoor sports facilities and a suitable site for an Olympic village were the principal arguments against any British bid being accepted by the IOC.

"If you look at the Los Angeles result, that has finally laid the old ghost of the Olympic Games being an expensive white elephant," said Palmer.

The Los Angeles Games reportedly reaped a \$250-million profit.

Spencer aims to regain 500cc crown

LONDON (R) — Fit-again Freddie Spencer wants his 500 cc world crown back, but he has to overcome "Mr. Consistency" — fellow American Eddie Lawson to achieve it.

Injury and mechanical trouble cost Honda rider Spencer his chance of retaining the most prestigious prize in motorcycle racing last year.

So Lawson emerged from the shadow of retired ex-champion and team mate Kenny Roberts to claim the championship by a commanding margin.

Both men open their 1988 challenge at South Africa's Kyalami Track on Saturday.

Californian Lawson won four Grand Prix in 1984 and underlined his staying power with a long string of high places. In fact, Yamaha number one Lawson has finished among the top 10 in 23 of his last 24 races, spread over two seasons.

Spencer was first in five of the seven races he contested last year. But a broken collarbone and other injuries forced him into a spectator role at the beginning and end of the season.

Former King Spencer has already made a great start to the year, winning an unprecedented three races at Daytona earlier this month.

Randy Mamola, the American who took second place behind Lawson — the fourth time he has been runner-up — has been rewarded with the three-cylinder NS500 Works Honda alongside Spencer.

Top Japanese rider Takazumi Katayama completes the line-up. France's Raymond Roche has joined Lawson on the factory Yamaha. The former endurance world champion has yet to win a 500 Grand Prix but showed his potential by finishing third overall last year.

Roche is rated the rider to watch as he attempts to become the first Frenchman to lift the crown.

Compatriot Christian Sarron, the reigning 250 cc champion, will campaign a Yamaha in all 12 rounds of the 500 series. Other riders likely to figure prominently include Australian Wayne Gardner, the British 500 and Formula One champion and Britain's Ron Haslam, a regular top runner who tends to fade towards the finish. Both will be aboard Hondas.



SPORTS MEETING: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday receives the President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and Kuwaiti Football Federation, Sheikh Fahad Al Ahmad (centre). During the meeting they discussed the existing bilateral relations in youth and sport fields. Attending the meeting was Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh (Petra photo)

Doctors dispute AMA call for boxing ban

NEW YORK (AP) — The American Medical Association (AMA) made "an emotional decision" when it called for a ban on boxing, says a doctor affiliated with the State Athletic Commission whose research shows no brain damage from knockouts.

Dr. Ben Derby, a professor at the New York Medical Center, joined commission chairman Jose Torres, former light heavyweight champion, and other commission doctors in criticising the AMA Tuesday for its anti-boxing resolution.

Derby, who monitors a year-old commission programme of analysing medical data on boxers during and after their ring careers, said the medical association acted "in the absence of scientific data."

He said CAT (Computer Assisted Tomography) scans of the brains of 100 boxers who had suffered knockouts or technical knockouts "showed no pathological abnormalities."

He stressed, however, that 10 to 15 years of study would be needed to determine long-term damage.

The commission doctors argued that precautions introduced by the state of New York at the beginning of 1984 made boxing safer.

Public attention focused on the dangers of boxing last fall after three-time world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali complained of slurred speech and fatigue. Doctors say Ali has a mild form of Parkinson's Disease, but cannot determine whether it stems from boxing.

Derby and other doctors appearing with Torres at a news conference said a lower percentage of boxers die in competition than athletes in other sports, including college and professional football.

"One thing that critics of boxing fail to take into consideration is that 90 per cent of the fighters are young people from ghetto areas, from the worst poverty of our (U.S.) society," said Torres.

"Many of them see sports, see entertainment, as a possible way out of the ghetto," said Torres, a Puerto Rico-born fighter who was light heavyweight champion of the world in 1965-66. He retired in 1969 with a 41-3-1 record, with 29 knockouts.

"If you have drugs and you have alcohol and you have a boxing gym, I think that the option is clear, that will pose limited choices, boxing is the best choice," said Torres.

Moses receives top French sports award

PARIS (R) — Edwin Moses, U.S. double Olympic champion, Tuesday received France's top annual international sports award, the Grand Prix de l'Academie des Sports.

Moses, unbeaten over 400 metres hurdles since August 1977, won his first gold medal at the 1976 Montreal Olympics and the second at last year's Los Angeles Games. The U.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics almost certainly cost him a rare hat-trick.

Zhou Jihong, Chinese high-board diving gold medalist at Los Angeles, was presented with the top 1984 women's award, the Prix Monique Berlioux. Michel Platini, European Footballer of the Year for the second consecutive year, won the Prix Henry-Deutsch-de-la-Meurthe for the year's top world soccer player, though he was not at the award ceremony. The French team Platini led to victory in last June's European Championship took the Prix Pierre-Skavinski for the top team.

Other 1984 award winners included French Olympic pole-vault gold medalist Pierre Quinon (Grand Prix Olympique) and Formula One racing driver Alain Prost, who took the Prix Roland Peugeot after winning seven Grand Prix races last year and finishing second in the World Drivers' Championship.

Lopes says he may quit athletics at end of season

LISBON (R) — World Cross Country Champion Carlos Lopes, who defends his title in Lisbon on Sunday, said Wednesday he was thinking of retiring at the end of the this year's athletics season.

"I've done 20 years of athletics and I think that will do," the 38-year-old Portuguese told reporters while training at the course near Lisbon which hosts the 1985 championship.

Lopes' long and eventful career was topped last year when he won the marathon gold medal in the Los Angeles Olympics but he has recently confessed that he is not at his best.

After winning the men's European Club Cross Country Cup in southern Portugal last month, Lopes disappointed his fans by coming second to 10,000 metres world record holder Fernando Mamede in this month's National Cross Country Championship.

Lopes has said his strength and stamina were sapped by the several events he took part in after winning the Olympic gold.

But his morale remains high for Sunday's championship race. "There's still running left in my legs," he told reporters.

The wiry athlete, who is known for his strong finish, will head the Portuguese team on Sunday. Also included are Mamede, Olympic 5,000 metres bronze medalist Antonio Leitao, and Helder de Jesus who replaces the injured Ezequiel Canario.

Jordan upsets Lloyd in 1st round of Virginia Slims Championship

NEW YORK (R) — Chris Evert Lloyd was upset in a three-set first round match by sister American Kathy Jordan but Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia survived a close battle Tuesday night in the \$500,000 Virginia Slims Championships at Madison Square Garden.

Jordan, a serve and volleyer whose only previous victories against Evert Lloyd came on grass at Wimbledon in 1983 and Eastbourne in 1984, stunned the world's second-ranked player 6-2, 1-6, 6-2 in a two-hour and six-minute match.

The departure of the second-seeded Lloyd continued the wave of upsets that have struck the major indoor tournament. The 30-year-old veteran, who only suffered her 101st defeat in 13 years, joined No. 4 seed Wendy

Turnbull of Australia and No. 8 Carling Bassett of Canada on the sidelines.

Mandlikova, seeded third, got the favourites back on track despite an erratic effort against Hungary's Andrea Temesvari. The 23-year-old Czech star woo her 11th straight match without the loss of a set in edging Temesvari 7-5, 7-5 in 95 minutes.

Fifth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia is favoured to emerge from the bottom half of the draw. Quarterfinal pairings in that half are Sukova vs. Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden and Jordan vs. Kathy Rinaldi of U.S.

Jordan, whose triumph two years ago at Wimbledon was the only time Evert Lloyd has failed to make the semifinals of a grand slam tourney, was anxious to make amends for a disastrous 6-2,

6-2 loss to the veteran star last week in Dallas.

"This will be a good one to keep in my memory," said Jordan, who has won three of 12 engagements with Evert Lloyd. "I played differently than usual. I kept the ball in play, served well and was steady."

Temesvari broke Mandlikova twice in the first set but was broken back three times. The final one came in a 12th game that Temesvari started with a double fault and finally lost at love. Mandlikova took advantage of second serves for the break in the final game of the second set. "It was a difficult first match," said Mandlikova, who has beaten Evert Lloyd and Navratilova in her past two tournaments. "I wasn't satisfied with my game and I hope to do better in the next round." She faces the winner of the Hanika-Garrison match in the quarterfinals.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.1480/1500	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3730/40	Canadian dollars
	3.2500/50	West German marks
	3.6650/6750	Swiss francs
	2.7300/7430	Dutch guilders
	65.30/45	Belgian francs
	9.9400/9600	French francs
	2057.0/62.0	Italian lire
	256.00/30	Japanese yen
	9.2750/2950	Swedish crowns
	9.3125/3325	Norwegian crowns
	11.6500/6700	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	329.00/332.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed mixed in thin trading with news of a cut in base lending rate to 13 1/2 per cent from 14 having been discounted, dealers said. At 1500 GMT the FT 30 index was unchanged at 997.5 while the FTSE 100 index at 1530 GMT was up 2.2 at 1,306.7.

Government bonds attracted most interest with longer dated paper gaining 3/4 point, helped by the decision not to tax pension funds and the performance of sterling, dealers said. Index-linked bonds, however, were up to 1 1/2 points lower.

Gold shares moved off the sharply higher levels as bullion retreated. North American shares were mixed.

Demand for bonds saw the government broker issue supplies of the new "tap" stocks. The 9 3/4 conversion 2001 stock was issued at 99 3/4 to 99 3/4, and 11 per cent exchequer 1991 paper was supplied at 99 1/2.

ICI fell 13p to 764 on the early strength of sterling before recovering to 782, up 3p on balance, as the currency moved back from its highs. Jaguar closed off 14p at 330 after 324, also on currency considerations and ahead of Thursday's annual results.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURS., MARCH 21, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon, you have the chance to wind up some matters which have been hanging over from the past and which have been pretty difficult to solve.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Morning should be spent getting chores done and later you can study what it is you most desire in life.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) First get your personal goals well clarified in your mind and then find the right way to gain them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't take any risks with your reputation in the morning and then you can study how best to gain cherished longings.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You have to work new ideas out better if you want to be successful with them. Avoid a certain stranger.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you argue over some business affair in the morning, you would easily get into trouble. Find better ways of handling things.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't get irritated with an associate over some pending deal and thereby put a monkey wrench into the works.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Compose yourself early and you can accomplish a great deal today and make real progress. Be gentle with co-workers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You find it hard to arrange for entertainment, so get busy at some work that is worthwhile. Co-workers are cooperative.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Do nothing that home ties may feel you are not appreciative of them in the morning. Enjoy amusements together.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A letter could worry you in the morning if you permit, but the evening can be very delightful at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't jump from property to financial matters and suffer a loss during the day, but study periodicals for data at night.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Some project may seem difficult to complete, but perhaps you are too tense, so relax and all is fine.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will need to be taught the right principles and tenets early in life that will be helpful. Upon reaching adulthood, your progeny can be most dynamic and have wonderful ideas that can bring much success.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Startling and dramatic new ideas and plans of action can be the means by which you best utilize this day to fullest possible advantage, so make a point to be up and out early.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can put those new ideas to work that will help you to make real progress in personal avenues. Avoid a jealous person.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have to prepare a different campaign than usual if you are to gain your present ambitions. Share thoughts with mate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Jot your ideas down and you know better how to proceed for the future. Later, join good friends for amusements.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Almost any kind of work you tackle today can bring you excellent results. Explain new system to fellow workers.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Contact clever and successful persons who can give you fine ideas for your own advancement in life. Intuition is good.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your own business acumen plus the advice of experts can make this a profitable day for you. Socialize this evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Listen to what a dynamic associate has to suggest and then follow such advice for good results to follow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have good ideas how to improve daily routines and should put them in motion right away. Be enthusiastic.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be more concerned with enjoying amusements that could relieve tensions you are under right now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get the conditions at home improved quietly and don't disturb family ties. Have associates in for dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Confer with partners and get your business working on a more solid and secure basis for a more productive life.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have an opportunity to find some new interest that could bring in a far greater income in the future.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be interested in whatever is new and up-to-date, so be encouraging in this and your progeny will find the right outlet for best expressing self in the future and be very successful. Teach to complete tasks.

Washington parley explores Arab-Western science links

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A conference in Washington last week provided the opportunity to "explore modern scientific interaction among Western nations and the Arab scientific community," according to Mr. Clovis Maksoud, permanent observer for the Arab League to the United Nations.

Mr. Maksoud was the keynote speaker at a two-day conference on "Innovations and Tradition in Arabic Sciences" on March 14-15 hosted by the Library of Congress.

A graphic example of the interaction Mr. Maksoud spoke of was in the form of a display of models of the Arabsat orbiting communications satellite at the conference. The satellite was launched from Kourou, French Guiana on Feb. 22, using a French launch vehicle. A second satellite is scheduled to be launched by the U.S. space shuttle in June.

The Arabsat system was developed by Aerospatiale of France in cooperation with the U.S. Ford Aerospace and Communications Corporation for the Arab Satellite Communication Organisation. The satellite is designed to serve 22 participating Arab states for the next 7 to 10 years.

Mr. Maksoud said that the launching of the satellite enabled the Arab World to receive its own telephone, broadcasting and telex services. The satellite can provide 8,000 simultaneous telephone circuits, as well as making possible direct broadcasts to television sets on the ground.

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Mr. Maksoud expressed appreciation for "the input of the United States in technology and science." He also pointed out, "It is important that the American people know about Arab cultural, literary and scientific contributions."

"This symposium constitutes a resumption of Arabic scientific tradition through which the world can ascertain the Arab presence in the community of nations scientifically, culturally and in other ways," Mr. Maksoud explained.

In opening remarks, Mr. John C. Broderick, Librarian of Congress assistant librarian for research services, read a statement from Mr. Daniel J. Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, which said: "We owe to Arab science more than the world of letters readily recognizes. Arab science has been a source and a catalyst of concepts, vocabularies and techniques enriching us all. This conference can remind us of our common heritage in which the Arab World has played a unique and leading role."

Ambassador Maksoud presented the Library of Congress with a volume of poetry by Khalil Gibran. The book, bound in brown leather with gold printing, is titled "The Two Faces of Gibran". It was just published in London.

(In 1983 the League of Arab States co-sponsored a conference on Gibran and Arab-American literature at the Library of Congress.)

Organized by the Near East section of the Library of Congress,

the seminar was co-sponsored by the League of Arab States.

In an interview at the end of the conference, Dr. George M. Atiyah, head of the Near East section of the Library of Congress said of the conference, "There were comparative studies between science in medieval times and contributions by modern Arab scientists in optics, mathematics and medicine."

"But what was most important," he emphasized, "is what's new in the field. The contributions by Arab scientists are not widely known to the American public and should be made known."

Among the conference participants were Mr. John E. Murdoch of Harvard University, who spoke on "George Sarton: The Past and Future in the History of Arabic Sciences", and Mr. A.I. Sabra of Harvard University, who discussed "Tradition and Innovation in Arabic Optics."

Mr. Antoine Zahlan, former chairman of the department of physics, American University in Beirut concluded the programme of panel presentations by discussing "The Recent Achievements of Arabic Sciences and the Challenges Facing Them."

Mr. Zahlan reported that before the end of this century, 20 per cent of all adult Arabs will be either university students or university graduates. Half will be scientists or technologists.

Mr. Zahlan said the construction and establishment of schools and universities have been expanding since 1950.

British finance minister wants more jobs but less spending

LONDON (R) — Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson has introduced tough measures to control government spending over the next year but critics said he had done little to help cut unemployment.

Mr. Lawson's budget day speech Tuesday soothed the finance world by reconfirming the government's commitments to fighting inflation, and rejecting appeals for higher public spending.

But he said this was also a budget for jobs. "We must also do what we can to combat this scourge of unemployment," he said.

Opponents maintained that a tight hold on the government's purse strings was incompatible with efforts to create jobs for Britain's 3.15 million unemployed.

Labour Party leader Mr. Neil Kinnock accused Mr. Lawson of turning his back on the jobless, and some Conservatives, nervous that the issue will lose votes in the next election, were also critical.

Conservative parliamentarian Mr. David Knox said the budget would have no real impact. The Times newspaper which supports the government said "most of the party's politicians would have liked the chancellor to have spent more."

Mr. Lawson, presenting his second budget, said he would aim to bring down government borrowing to £7 billion (\$8 billion) for the coming year, a fall of £3.5 billion (\$4 billion) on this year's estimates.

Analysts agreed that it was a budget tailored to reassure the international financial markets, assisting sterling to recover and perhaps paving the way for a cut in interest rates.

To tackle unemployment, Mr. Lawson announced measures to make it cheaper for employers to take on lower-paid workers, and tried to encourage the unemployed to take on less well-paid jobs by increasing the threshold at which they start to pay tax.

Mr. Lawson said the cost of the new model will be about JD 8,500, JD 500 above the sale price of Mercedes 280S noting that the new model also features many additions of luxury and elegance.

The exhibition is open to the public at Amra Hotel Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week from 10:00-13:00 and 15:00-21:00.

T. Gargour & Fils Company, agents for Mercedes-Benz cars in Jordan, Wednesday opened an exhibition unveiling the new Mercedes mid-series saloons model 280-300 E.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by government officials, ambassadors and prominent Jordanian businessmen.

Mr. Nadim Gargour, general manager of T. Gargour & Fils Co., said that no other car features the new 200-300 E Mercedes-Benz lowest drag-coefficient which economises on fuel consumption by 30 per cent, reduces the car weight and thus enables it to be more efficient.

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New car unveiled in Amman



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Coalition hopes to complete term after Belgian nuclear missile vote

BRUSSELS (R) — The Belgian government is looking forward to completing a full four-year term in office after winning a parliamentary confidence vote on nuclear missile deployment Wednesday.

Prime Minister Wilfried Martens' coalition of Liberals and Social Christians in the end comfortably won the endorsement of parliament's Lower House for having approved the installation of 16 U.S. cruise missiles at Florennes Air Base last Friday.

A threatened revolt within Mr. Martens' Flemish Social Christian Party crumbled when its parliamentary group leader Luc Van Den Brande said he would support the confidence motion, placing loyalty to the government ahead of his anti-nuclear beliefs.

A cartoon in Le Soir newspaper showed Mr. Martens holding a shepherd's staff in the shape of a missile and leading his flock away from two bedraggled sheep, representing the coalition's only rebels in the vote, which was won by 116 to 93.

"Our reputation is saved," commented the popular daily La

Derniere Heure, saying the government's past hesitation over a 1979 NATO plan to install the missiles had endangered Belgium's reputation as a reliable ally.

Pressure from other NATO countries and from his Liberal coalition partners helped Mr. Martens and Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans to overcome the reservations of some other CVP ministers towards deploying the missiles now.

Government officials said a prompt decision on the missiles was needed to avoid such an emotive issue being at the centre of national political debate during the campaign for national elections due in December.

They said economic issues were likely to return to the forefront of public attention in coming months as the coalition parties wrestle with budgetary problems.

Huge interests on past borrowings and high social security spending due partly to the country's 14 per cent unemployment rate leave little room for manoeuvre as politicians try to reconcile Liberal demands for tax cuts with Social Christian concern not to cut benefits for poor people and families.

Political sources said the installation of the cruise missiles could help to increase pressure for closer consultation by the United States with small NATO allies like Belgium.

Sensitivities on this point showed up in the parliamentary debate, with opposition members accusing the government of subservience to the U.S., and Social Christian speakers agreeing that the European allies' role in NATO should be strengthened.

The sources said the opposition Socialists would continue to criticise the government over the missile deployment but they were part of the 1979 coalition which agreed to the NATO plan.

Immediately after parliament voted, about half a dozen anti-

nuclear demonstrators in the public galleries began shouting slogans and hurling clumps of sandy earth wrapped in paper on to the deputies.

After a brief struggle, armed guards led away the protesters who left leaflets saying the earth came from Florennes and belonged to Belgium, not under the boots of U.S. soldiers.

Wednesday's vote, shortly before five a.m. local time (0400 GMT) came after a 15-hour debate which ended days of uncertainty for the Martens government.

Alarmed by the possibility of defections from the government party ranks, Mr. Martens called ministers back from abroad for two confidence votes on the missiles and on the government's economic programme.

However, the feared defections did not occur and the government, which has a six-seat majority in the 212-seat chamber, won the vote comfortably with the help of some right-wing opposition groups.

Shultz, Gromyko may meet in Austria

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is likely to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko when both attend a ceremony in Vienna on May 15 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the treaty ending the occupation of Austria, a State Department official has said.

Any such meeting is likely to focus on the possibility of a summit between President Ronald Reagan and the new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, said the official, who insisted on remaining anonymous.

"What else is there?" the official asked. "We've got the (arms control) talks. We have the invitation for a summit outstanding. That strikes me as eminently logical."

Walter Greinert, press counsellor at the Austrian embassy, said Tuesday that Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko, as well as the foreign ministers of France, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Italy, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, and other United Nations and European dignitaries, have accepted the invitation to attend, some of them "in principle."

State Department spokesman

Bernard Kalb said there was "no set plan" for a Shultz-Gromyko meeting "but I would imagine that if the secretary's there and the Soviet Foreign Minister, it's something that you would not rule out."

Mr. Kalb recalled that at the 25th anniversary celebration, Mr. Gromyko met with then-U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie.

Mr. Greinert said he understood Mr. Shultz would arrive in Vienna on May 14, a day before the celebration at Castle of Belvedere in honour of the Austrian state treaty signed in 1955 that reestablished the independence of Austria.

Meanwhile the United States, skirting a dispute with Moscow, said Tuesday it intends to present "concrete new ideas" and listen to what the Soviet Union has to offer in the pursuit of an agreement to curb nuclear weapons.

"If the Soviets approach the negotiations in the same way much progress can be made," a U.S. statement said in a soft response to Soviet accusations that the United States is deliberately seeking a deadlock in the Geneva talks in order to proceed with its Star Wars programme.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Over 1,000 women die in 'dowry deaths'

NEW DELHI (R) — More than 1,000 Indian women have died in "dowry deaths" over the last three years, parliament was told Wednesday. Dowry deaths involve the death by suicide or murder of a wife, whose dowry is considered insufficient by her in-laws. Ram Dulani Sinha, minister of state for home affairs, said 340 women died last year, 301 in 1983 and 381 in 1982. The government has ordered state administrations to take stringent measures against the practice, he added. Dowry was made illegal in 1961 but is widely practised, especially among Hindu families in northern India. The amount of dowry, negotiated between the parents of the couple, is crucial to the girl's marriage prospects. The dowry can include a house, a car, a video cassette recorder or a motor-scooter.

Liquor banned at Malaysian functions

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The Malaysian cabinet Wednesday decided to ban the serving of liquor at all official functions both at home and abroad, the Information Minister Rais Yatim was quoted as saying after a weekly cabinet meeting. No reasons were given for the ban, Malaysia, which has Islam as its official religion, is a multi-racial country where other religions may also be practised.

8 sentenced for religious conversion

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Eight men have been sentenced to six months in prison on charges of being converted to Christianity, to the detriment of Hinduism, and of propagating their new religion, their lawyer said Wednesday. Lawyer Nani Shanker Niraula said he would appeal the March 14 verdict by a district court at Daddeldhura in western Nepal. The lawyer said that in their statement, the convicted men, including two 19-year-olds, Bhoj Raj Bhatta and Rajesh Kumar Rawal, said their ancestors were Hindus, "but we believe in Jesus Christ." Six other defendants were declared innocent of similar charges on grounds their conversion occurred outside Nepalese territory in India. Justice Parashuram Jha said in his verdict. They also were exonerated of charges of converting others to Christianity because of lack of evidence, the lawyer said. Police arrested the 14 in May last year. Nepalese law does not specifically ban citizens of the Hindu kingdom from being Christians. But anyone found converting to another religion from Hinduism is liable to up to one year in prison, and anyone convicted of engaging in religious conversions to the detriment of Hinduism can be sentenced to up to six years.

World's oldest hot bath discovered

LIPARI, Sicily (R) — Archaeologists say they have discovered the oldest hot baths in the world at a site on the Aeolian Island of Lipari. French archaeologist Madeleine Cavalier told Reuters the baths dated from about 1,500 B.C. and belonged to the Mycenaean culture which spread out from the Greek mainland. "I would say they are the oldest in the world," Cavalier said by telephone. "I do not know of any baths that predate them in the Mediterranean region." The baths are in the form of a Mycenaean Tholos, a circular chamber built of stone surmounted by a dome, and were discovered at a site known as the springs of St. Calogeros. Ancient historians tell of people travelling from Sicily to take the waters at Lipari but this was the first evidence of their use by the Mycenaeans, who are known to have regarded the Aeolian Island as an important trading post. The limits of the chamber entrance and a stone groove diverting water from the hot spring into the Tholos are visible. The Mycenaean site remained undiscovered for so long because it was covered with earth from an earlier excavation in 1870.

U.S. urged to ease tension with Soviets

PEKING (R) — China called on the United States to reduce tensions with the Kremlin during talks with U.S. Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost, a Chinese spokesman said Wednesday.

He said China, itself attempting to ease relations with Moscow, supported the new arms talks between the superpowers which opened earlier this month in Geneva. Peking wanted to see an agreement that would not harm the interests of third countries.

Mr. Armacost, who left Wednesday for Tokyo and South Korea, had two days of foreign policy talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Nueqian and Vice-Minister Zhu Jizhen. He was here as part of a tour of Asian countries.

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry told a regular press briefing this afternoon the talks were "friendly, sincere and helpful in the enhancement of mutual understanding."

The discussions, part of a series of political and military meetings between the U.S. and China following President Reagan's visit here last year, came just after Chinese moves to boost relations with new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The spokesman said the Chinese discussed a range of international issues with Mr. Armacost, including the situations in South Asia, the Middle East and Central America, as well as Sim-

onian relations.

Mr. Armacost, number two at the State Department behind Secretary of State George Shultz, told reporters Tuesday the United States did not fear an improvement in ties between Peking and Moscow, who fell out over ideological and foreign policy issues more than twenty years ago.

He said Washington was exploring the possibility of improving its relations with the Kremlin. The Chinese spokesman said the arms race posed a grave threat to world peace. China wanted to see a relaxation of U.S.-Soviet relations and expressed the hope that "through negotiations they can reach an agreement that is not detrimental to third countries," he said.

U.S. F-15 crashes in S. Korea

POHANG, South Korea (R) — An American F-15A Eagle fighter crashed in the Yellow Sea off the south-west coast of South Korea Wednesday after massive beach landing exercises on the eastern side of the country, military officials said.

U.S. Air Force and navy planes were at the crash scene but it was not known whether the pilot had ejected safely, the officials said.

They said it was not immediately clear whether the jet had taken part in the landing exercises, which involved an armada of about 40 American and South Korean warships.

Australia, Soviet Union discuss disarmament

CANBERRA (R) — Senior Soviet and Australian officials Wednesday opened three days of talks on disarmament and arms control which were arranged following correspondence between the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said in a speech welcoming the Soviet delegation that it was not Australia's intention to defend American policies or attack Soviet ones during the talks.

The Canberra government had arranged separate disarmament and arms control discussions with both Moscow and Washington late last year and a senior American is due here soon for a similar exchange of views.

The Soviet delegation is led by Vladimir Petrovsky, the head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's International Organisations Division.

Mr. Hayden said Australia's approach to the talks would be based on an assessment of where its own interests lay. "We speak for no country other than our own," he said.

Australia is a close ally of the United States and is linked to Washington under the ANZUS tripartite defence alliance.

Mr. Hayden said Australia attached particular importance to the conclusion of agreements leading to the limitation and reduction of nuclear arms which would in turn, it was hoped, lead to their eventual elimination.

Australia was actively seeking a comprehensive and verifiable ban on nuclear testing, Mr. Hayden said.

The first session of talks focussed on the prospects at the Geneva U.S.-Soviet arms limitation talks for the prevention of the arms race in outer space, a nuclear freeze, and the future of the antiballistic missile (ABM) treaty, official sources said.

Both sides had agreed that the three elements of the Geneva negotiations — strategic and intermediate-range nuclear weapons as well as outer space — were linked, the sources said.

'Nicaragua has only 786 Cuban military advisers'

RIO DE JANEIRO (Agencies) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said that there were only 786 Cuban military advisers in his country and not 8,000 as claimed by the United States.

Mr. Ortega said that there was a total of 1,500 Cuban advisers, both military and non-military, in Nicaragua.

"The Americans keep saying there are 8,000 Cuban military advisers in Nicaragua but this is a lie," Mr. Ortega told a news conference here.

"If this was the truth they would find out soon since it is no secret that they keep a spying network in our country," he said. "I can state that the total of Cuban instructors in Nicaragua is not over 1,500 and that of these only 786 are military."

The non-military personnel worked in such fields as health, agriculture and education, he said.

Mr. Ortega said eventual sales of Brazilian arms to Nicaragua could be considered in talks with officials here. He declined to say whether he had discussed arms supplies with new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during his recent visit to Moscow for the funeral of the late President Konstantin Chernenko.

Meanwhile Nicaraguan rebel chief Adolfo Calero confirmed Tuesday that three rebel officers were executed for committing human rights abuses in 1983, but he denied recent charges that the U.S.-backed rebels are guilty of widespread atrocities.

Calero, political leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, known by its Spanish initials FDN, said reports by several private American human rights organizations were biased in favour of the Sandinista government and exaggerated its troops' misdeeds.

Castro denies Cuban part in drug trafficking

NEW YORK (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro has denied his government was involved in drug peddling.

In an interview in Havana with CBS correspondent Dan Rather, Mr. Castro said: "In this country, there is neither consumption of drugs nor traffic, either nationals or international."

Pressed about U.S. charges that drugs passed through Cuba before being smuggled from South America into the United States and that top Cuban officials were involved, Mr. Castro replied:

"That's one of the many lies... It is absolutely false. This is a country with the cleanest history in this field of drugs."

"I do not know of a single case... of only (even) one Cuban official that has ever been implicated or involved in the drug business."

Mr. Castro, speaking through an interpreter, said all ships and planes that landed in Cuba carrying drugs were automatically seized.

Rather added: "In hours of off-camera conversations, Castro

said three different times he wanted to help in stopping international narcotics traffic.

"We want so far as to say he was willing to shoot down some drug-running airplanes over Cuba if he got help in positively identifying such aircraft."

CBS quoted White House National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane as saying: "We've told the Cubans before, and we say again now, we are interested in any cooperation they can give on drug enforcement. We are wide open to cooperation, but there should be deeds, not just words."

Secretary of State George Shultz has accused Cuba, Nicaragua and other Communist countries of smuggling drugs into the United States. He has also alleged that Mr. Castro's government helped a Colombian drug smuggler to move narcotics to the United States.

Jaime Guillot-Lara, the alleged drug trafficker and friend of Mr. Castro, was indicted in Florida in 1982 and seized in Mexico, but disappeared after being released.

Taiwan legislators demand prime minister's resignation

TAIPEI, Taiwan (Agencies) — Two opposition members of Taiwan's law-making legislative Yuan have called for Premier Yu Kuo-Hua to resign to assume responsibility for a series of disasters and political scandals, the Yuan reported Wednesday.

Yu, who was appointed premier last May, said he would refuse to resign under pressure from a few legislators. But, he said, he would step down if two-thirds of the legislative Yuan's 352 members voted to oust him as required by law.

Political observers considered this unlikely since the ruling Kuomintang, or Nationalist Party, holds 319 of the seats in the legislature. Yu, Taiwan's chief law-making assembly.

In a press release, the Yuan said the two legislators — Yu Chun Yueh-Ying and Chiang Peng-Chien — demanded the resignation of the 71-year-old premier at a regular session of the legislative Yuan Tuesday. Neither one is a member of the Kuomintang.

Since Yu became premier, they noted, there have been three major disasters that have claimed a total of 270 lives, a financial scandal described as the worst in Taiwan's history and the slaying of a Chinese-American writer in the U.S. state of California, in which three members of the Defence Ministry's intelligence bureau have been im-

licated.

Ms. Yu Chen said the various incidents "prove that the Yu cabinet is incapable of meeting its responsibilities."

Meanwhile a gang leader said Wednesday that the chief of Taiwan's Military Intelligence Bureau (MIB) ordered him to kill a Chinese-American writer in California last year.

Chen Chi-Li, leader of the Bamboo Union Gang, told a Taipei court that the MIB chief, Vice-Admiral Wang Hsi-Ling, said the dissident writer was a double agent and should be eliminated.

Chen said that despite Wang's order he had decided only that Liu should be given "a lesson". However, the author had been killed by accident after a struggle.

"Wang told me at first to teach Henry Liu a lesson because he had written bad things about our country and President Chiang Ching-Kuo," Chen said.

"But in a later meeting Wang called Liu a traitor. He said he was trained as an undercover agent for Taiwan, but later betrayed several of our agents operating in mainland China to the Chinese Communists."

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson

A.K.A.
By Gyle Hearn

ACROSS
1 Body covering
2 Steering mechanism
3 Road machine
4 Pleasant and cheerful
5 Dephne of a loved one
6 Secured
7 Colored ring
8 Affiliated
9 Glossy paint
10 Ramon Estavez
11 Adjust
12 Onassis to friends
13 Aristide
14 Clay
15 Hotel units
16 Sun — on
17 Quorum
18 Foxy

39 Small valley
40 Woody
41 Former Czech statesman
42 Fanned the creek
43 One who speaks
44 Arab jobless
45 Type of heat
46 Horse god
47 Dress: var.
48 Sarah Gahela
49 Boehm's instrument
50 Equuletor
51 Acacia leaves
52 Pizza stuff
53 Wedding cake
54 Duffing items
55 Shrike — I
56 Joe and John
57 Le — du
58 Printemps
59 Feather shaft

60 Lasso
61 Lowenstein
62 Jerome
63 Gibberman
64 Arab grp.
65 One who speaks
66 Haka jobless
67 Type of heat
68 Horse god
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80 Printemps
81 Feather shaft

84 See 76 A
85 Cluster
86 Cool, degree
87 Hook
88 Money player
89 Craggy knoll
90 — Amm
91 — horse
92 Vigoda of TV
93 Harnes
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214 Printemps
215 Feather shaft

DOWN

1 Upset the shoe-choo
2 Pie
3 Utter
4 Happenings
5 Formerly the French Sudan
6 D'Almeida
7 Descartes
8 Treacher
9 Dine Crocetti
10 Hermannsholm
11 Always
12 Cheap whiskey
13 Hall
14 Landlord's dog
15 Doctor's gup
16 Realm
17 Forward to points

17 Depends
18 Op. of ten.
19 Lazing
20 Winter hazard
21 Alexander Zuck
22 Straight cuts
23 Arthur Levitch
24 Certain dives
25 Myra of movies
26 Wager
27 Dine Crocetti
28 Cleo's transport
29 Freshen
30 Calumet
31 France
32 Dine Crocetti
33 Sound
34 Bibbed
35 Deba

36 Key and Ringo
37 Gt. postbox
38 Goddess of agriculture
39 "Divine Comedy" author
40 Leonard Slye
41 Tours de force
42 Salsiccia
43 Shape
44 Sir Francis Drake
45 Silica together
46 Fr. river
47 Actress Schietz
48 Spiritus love
49 Gen. surface
50 Actress West
51 Wecca resident
52 Mr. Dukenfield
53 Tasks assigned

54 Climbs
55 Metabolic element
56 Street
57 Byron's field
58 Lambasted
59 Ump's call
60 Bird and phone
61 Remains undecided
62 Age
63 Sort
64 African
65 Sabab for one
66 Beatty and Sparks
67 Sneak a look
68 100
69 Country monogram

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Diagramless

19 X 19, by Neil McCarthy

ACROSS
1 Love State U.
2 Versatile
3 bean
4 Do not delete
5 Anatomical
6 Membrane
7 Change the
8 Home of song
9 Distasteful
10 Spit

17 Deep valley
18 Opp. of ten.
19 Large lizard
20 for short
21 Abandon
22 Chisel
23 Hooley great
24 Vital fluid
25 Treat for
26 Bugs Bunny
27 Baktis
28 Pelt

35 Less plausible
36 Elte
37 Envy
38 Get-up-and-go
39 Period
40 Roman greeting
41 Haka speeches
42 High spirits
43 Landlord's dog
44 River
45 Method: abbr.
46 Rule

57 Certain European
58 Marketplace of old Gr.
59 Thoroughfare
60 Dejected
61 Coin word
62 Fr. town
63 Snapper's prey
64 Prohibitionists

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DOWN

1 Helper: abbr.
2 Traveler's stopover
3 Lace feature
4 Frenchish
5 Remble
6 Arab VIP
7 Car damage
8 Singlions
9 Helio
10 Has been
11 Book's physical appearance

17 Complaint
18 Exclamations
19 Sp. painter
20 Ricochet
21 War of 1858-59
22 Hooser
23 Beaver
24 Tannite of soap
25 Omer's article
26 Shew

32 Impulse conveyer
33 The Slic
34 Pitchers with spoons
35 World invasion
36 Item for a waiter
37 NCO
38 Charged
39 Particle
40 Thus let

46 Always
47 Mill oath
48 Corporate design
49 State positively
50 Sea swallow
51 A Garstin
52 Euxine to action
53 Railway
54 Obusary
55 Lichen

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